

Aim to keep average rise to £22

Patten unveils £3bn plan to ease poll tax

By Robin Oakley and Nicholas Wood

CHRIS Patten, the environment secretary, yesterday announced a £3.26 billion boost for local authority spending designed to limit average poll tax increases next year to £22 a person.

Four million people will receive help for the first time because of changes in the transitional relief scheme, which will aid those living in previously low-rated areas, and up to 11 million people will receive additional help.

Mr Patten, who was given a warm reception by anxious Tory backbenchers, hailed his settlement as "generous by any measure". Labour, however, called it a "paltry package" that would "salvage nothing from the disaster of the poll tax."

The prime minister said that the new money gained by Mr Patten to make the poll tax more politically palatable was evidence of her readiness to respond to backbench concerns. On the day, however, that the cabinet agreed to maintain strict control of public spending, Margaret Thatcher's address to the backbench 1922 committee of Tory MPs left no doubt that the size of the poll tax settlement meant less for other departments.

Echoing John Major, the chancellor, she said that with privatisation receipts and tax revenues down, the Treasury was "no pot of gold".

The £3.26 billion increase in support to local authorities is equivalent to a little more than 2p on the basic rate of

income tax, or slightly above 1½ per cent on value-added tax. Alternatively, it would cover the running costs of more than 3,000 big comprehensive schools.

The poll tax reform, as promised, contains no alteration in the basic principles or structure of the tax, but consultations will take place on sorting out anomalies that affect those who are involuntary second home owners, those who live over the shop and those in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

Despite sharp constraints on public spending agreed at yesterday's cabinet meeting, Mr Patten's colleagues supported the Treasury's concession of £2.10 billion for what was conceded to be a crucial political objective.

Mr Patten, who had earlier won his battle not to be forced into new poll tax legislation, pleased Tory backbenchers with the biggest ever cash increase in local government spending. To meet the insistence of the prime minister and the chancellor that the money goes to reducing poll tax bills and not in higher spending, Mr Patten made plain that he would not hesitate next year "vigorously" to cap the community charges of high spending councils.

The environment secretary believes that the levels of standard spending assessment and the revenue support grant he is setting for local authorities next year will result in average poll tax bills of £379, a rise of £22 over this year, despite increases in local authority responsibilities. Before yesterday's announcement, local authority associations were saying that average levels could exceed £500.

Mr Patten's aim was to achieve a package, at reasonable cost to the Treasury, which would take the poll tax off the front pages, soothe Tory party concerns and avoid the need for primary legislation. Last night, his colleagues believed that, after a long and bumpy ride in the cabinet committee wrestling with the party's biggest political problem, he had met those objectives.

The biggest change is the increase in transitional relief schemes. Instead of being cut to £260 million next year, transitional relief will be extended to £570 million. Phasing out of the relief will be delayed for two years, benefiting up to 11 million people, including four million people for the first time. The maximum increase faced by charge payers will be cut from this year's £3 a week to £2 a week as long as their local authority

spends in line with Whitehall targets.

The amount of money provided for local government from the revenue support grant, the business rate and direct grants will rise next year from £23.1 billion to £26.05 billion, a 12.8 per cent increase. There is £2.10 billion in "new money", made up of £1.79 billion in increased grant and £310 in extra transitional relief. With the £1.16 billion previously allocated for an increase in local government spending the total is £3.26 billion.

Mr Patten's efforts were dismissed as "tinkering" and a "pre-election sop" by opponents. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said the settlement was £2 billion less than what was needed and that the gap could be closed only by adding more than £50 to poll tax bills.

Although Tory MPs publicly closed ranks behind Mr Patten, privately there was some disappointment that he had not made more fundamental changes. Some backbenchers were also worried that councils would find ways of evading the stricter controls on spending.

Labour was scathing about Mr Patten's "paltry package", saying that bills would rise sharply that services would be cut. Bryan Gould, the Opposition's chief environment spokesman, said Mr Patten's statement was an admission that the poll tax was a disaster from which nothing could be salvaged.

The extra £2 billion would not be enough to cover the errors of last year, to allow for inflation, to meet the cost of new commitments imposed on local authorities, to remove the most glaring anomalies, and to allow for the frighteningly low level of collection.

Doubt cast, and Thatcher flagship, page 2
Leading article, page 15



Under arrest: Patricia Cahill (left) and Karyn Smith in the police station at Bangkok airport after their detention

British girls face Thai drug charges

By Craig Seton and Neil Kelly in Bangkok

TWO teenage British girls arrested in Thailand on drug-smuggling charges are expected to appear in court in Bangkok today. The girls, on their first trip abroad, were detained in the early hours of yesterday after 67lb of top-grade heroin with an estimated street value of £4 million was allegedly found in their baggage.

Karyn Joanne Smith, aged 19, from Solihull, and Patricia Ann Cahill, 17, from Birmingham, were arrested at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport as they tried to board a flight to Amsterdam with onward tickets to The Gambia. Their parents are to fly to Thailand as soon as they can.

The Foreign Office said Thai police had told them that Miss Cahill would appear before a juvenile court and be sent to a juvenile remand centre. Miss Smith would be sent to Klong Prem prison outside the capital. Under Thai law she could be executed by firing squad if convicted. Miss Cahill would not be executed because she is under 18.

John Francis, the British consul in Bangkok said of the drugs haul: "It is a hell of a lot... an enormous amount. It is the first case we have had of a UK citizen carrying such a large quantity." He added that the girls were "in a bit of a state of shock but appear to be in good health".

Miss Cahill's father, Patrick, aged 43, said he had believed his daughter to be on holiday in Scotland. "This has been such a shock, but now we just want to get over there to see her. I don't know why she went to Thailand. Perhaps she was terrified into it."

Customs officers found the heroin in specially constructed containers of condensed milk, coffee and biscuits. They said they would not have detected it without a tip-off. Both girls denied knowledge of the drugs.

Washington's change of policy, announced on Wednesday by James Baker, the Secretary

Scargill blow as NUM wins ruling on £1.4m

By Tim Jones, Employment Correspondent

THE National Union of Mineworkers was granted an injunction last night in Dublin to freeze the £1.4 million of Soviet and East European money donated to help striking British miners, when details of the money held in the Irish Intercontinental Bank in Merrion Square, Dublin, were made public.

The application was the first move after the executive began legal proceedings to sue Arthur Scargill, its president, and Peter Heathfield, the general secretary, for the recovery of the money. The move, approved unanimously by the 14-member executive at its headquarters in Sheffield, clearly shook both men who were ordered out of the room before the decision was taken.

The Dublin injunction was one of four moves taken in London and Vienna as well as Dublin and Paris within hours of the decision pending action for breaches of trust. Lawyers acting for the union appeared before Justice Michael Davies in private in the High Court in

London. The hearing in the High Court in Dublin however was in public and details of the account were given for the first time since it was opened in January 1985.

The court was told it was opened in the names of Alain Simon, of France, general secretary of the International Miners' Organisation, and Norman West, member of the European Parliament, described as a trustee of the Miners' Defence Aid Fund, at the time of the miners' strike in 1984. M Simon and Mr West are also restrained by the injunction, effective until July 27.

Ian Finlay, for the NUM, told the court that the account was opened in January 1985 when Mr Scargill took steps to avoid the attentions of the sequester.

The substantive claim against four defendants, including Mr Heathfield, in the English action is for damages for breach of trust and that they make restitution to the plaintiffs in lieu of

breach of trust. An application for an interlocutory injunction with the other parties present or represented will be made on Friday, July 27. Defendants were given liberty to apply to court in the meantime.

In Sheffield last night, Mr Scargill and Mr Heathfield were being followed by men who apparently had the task of passing on their whereabouts to court bailiffs making their way from London with writs.

After the executive meeting, Mr Scargill condemned his colleagues' action as "hilarious and completely crack-brained", saying the affair should be resolved by negotiation and arbitration. Mr Heathfield said: "I feel hard done by. I think it is diabolical."

Although Mr Scargill is adamant he has done nothing wrong and dismissed a suggestion that he would be forced out, the prospect of his being hauled to court by his own members will create a leadership crisis and increase the pressures on him to resign.

China rejects US line on Cambodia

From Catherine Sampson in Canton

CHINA yesterday opposed the call by the United States to the Cambodian resistance coalition to vacate its United Nations seat. Peking's staunch support for the tripartite coalition, which comprises the non-communist factions of Prince Sihanouk and Son Sann and the communist Khmer Rouge, confirms that the bond between the resistance and China holds strong in the face of the new challenge from Washington.

"Before a comprehensive agreement and a political settlement in Cambodia can be reached, the seat of Cambodia should not be left vacant," Jin Guizhu, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, said in Peking.

Washington's change of policy, announced on Wednesday by James Baker, the Secretary

of State, has also left several of its allies in a dilemma. Toshiki Kaifu, prime minister of Japan, said last night he welcomed Mr Baker's initiative as a "new wind" but added that the sharp policy change would not affect Japan's own course.

Australia, which finds its peace plan undermined, as well as the countries of South-East Asia led by Singapore, which have for years lobbied to maintain the UN seat, find themselves at odds with the new US line.

The US decision to withdraw support for the coalition, and to open talks with Vietnam to find a solution to the Cambodian conflict, is aimed at preventing a Khmer Rouge return to power.

Australian setback, page 12
Leading article, page 15

Faldo only one shot behind Open leaders

By John Hennessy

NICK Faldo, winner of the US Masters for the second successive time in April, brought his first round in the Open golf championship to an exhilarating conclusion at St Andrews yesterday, holing a 45-yard pitch-and-run for an eagle two at the 18th and a total of 67, five under par.

That put him one stroke behind the joint leaders, Greg Norman, one of the tournament favourites, and Michael Allen, an American of less distinguished reputation.

There was a group of eight players on 68 including Ian Woosnam and Sam Torrance, who with Faldo represent the strongest British challenge.

Peter Jacobsen, who had recorded five consecutive birdies from the third hole, was six under par with two holes to play, but the 17th cost him two strokes. Severiano Ballesteros and Mark Calcavecchia, winners in 1988 and 1989, both took 71.

Open reports, page 41, 42

200 years before Ridley, the good German guide

By Alan Franks



The good German: witty and pious

THE English in general, and Mr Nicholas Ridley in particular, will draw comfort from a colourful guide to the characteristics of Europe's ten leading nations. His compatriots emerge as the league leaders, credited with a "highly developed moral sense" and "kindly disposition", while the Germans, or at least some of them, are found guilty of cruelty and superstition. No matter that the document was compiled 250 years ago.

Called the *Chart of Nations*, it was intended as a thumbnail directory for coachmen and innkeepers along the north-south route to Italy across the heart of the Habsburg empire. Copies were gratefully pinned to the walls of

bars and hotels in the heyday of the European Grand Tour.

The modern Conservative party would have approved, since the aim was the quickening of sound trade. Although its authorship is unknown, it plainly does not emanate from an academic of the kind favoured by Mrs Thatcher for her secret seminars, and has a tabloid approach more reminiscent of Asterix than of Michelangelo.

There are the good Germans, from the north of the country, and the bad ones from the south, the latter dismissively lumped together under the label of Swabians. Although the Britons shine as the postillions' favourite customers, the good Germans are not far behind, being considered witty, pious and open-hearted,

although a little on the stingy side and too fond of drinking.

There is a distinct facial resemblance between the guide's model of this breed and the present British prime minister. The bad Germans, however, get it in the neck: dim-witted, jolting zealots whose single saving grace is fearlessness in battle.

A copy of the chart, which was conceived in south-east Austria, has been rescued from oblivion by the journal *Historia* in Budapest. Contemporary historians may find some irony here, since it was in this city that Mr Ridley was to be found even as his own remarks in *The Spectator* on the national traits of Germans were hitting the streets of Britain.

Gabriel Ronay, page 18



The bad German: dim-witted zealot

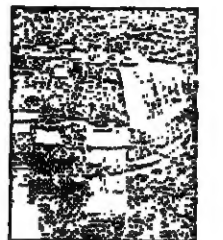
Saturday Review

Saint Laurent: in my fashion



Yves Saint Laurent talks to Liz Smith about his stewardship of the world's leading fashion house and his struggle against illness, and his partners discuss their relationship with Saint Laurent

A renaissance on the water



The reopening of the Queen's short-cut to the Kennet and Avon canal will be a landmark in the history of Britain's waterways. What are the prospects for this new canal age?

Hamlet and the joker, reunited



Woody Allen's latest film, opening in Britain next Friday, marks his return to a fusion of comedy and angst

Plus...

Best of British beaches, John Julius Norwich enthuses over galleries, Bugs Bunny at 50, the video threat to American freedom, the rise of women playwrights, Leonard Cheshire's childhood. All this and more in *The Times* tomorrow

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INDEX	
Arts	20-22
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Business	25-31
Court & Social	16
Crosswords	17, 24
Leading articles	15
Letters	35
Motoring	16
Obituary	9
Parliament	38-42
Sport	23
TV & Radio	23
Weather	24

C notes
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Britons warned of drugs hazards in south east Asia

By MARK SOUSTER

THE arrest of the two British girls in Thailand yesterday prompted the Foreign Office to reiterate its warning to people travelling to south east Asia about the dangers of drugs and the penalties involved.

Thailand, where Britain has responsibility for 197 people imprisoned for drug offences, has joined Malaysia in its high-profile and ruthless campaign to eradicate heroin smuggling.

A measure of the problem facing the authorities is illustrated by the amount of drug seizures made annually. In the year to May the authorities seized and destroyed 1,924kg of narcotics, including 658kg of heroin, produced in the Golden Triangle, on the borders of Burma, Laos and Thailand, and one of two big opium-producing areas of the world.

Customs and Excise said a

small percentage of the 331kg of heroin seized in Britain came from Thailand; 80 per cent comes from the Indian subcontinent's Golden Crescent, an area bordering Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

The Thai government recently issued a stern warning about drug smuggling, and said that it would impose the severest penalties on any person, regardless of nationality, who broke the law.

There is a mandatory 25-year sentence for heroin trafficking, and between one and five years for possession. There is no chance of bail for narcotics crimes.

The death penalty has existed since 1979 for the importation, exportation and possession of 100 grammes although no Western prisoners have been executed. The sentence is usually commuted to life imprisonment for for-

signers and does not apply to those aged under 18. Britain and Thailand signed an exchange of prisoners treaty in January whereby prisoners can serve the latter part of their sentence in their home country. As yet no Briton has been repatriated.

At Bangkok's Don Muang international airport notices in English, French, German and Italian warn of the severe penalties imposed for drug offences. The signs went up in the arrivals hall as a result of pressure from the British and American embassies after a dramatic increase in arrests of their citizens. Foreigners are also made aware of the dangers on immigration cards they complete before entering the country.

In spite of the penalties, many Britons have acted as couriers for international syndicates. They face big risks but if successful can earn large sums of money. Only an estimated 10 per cent of heroin is found.

The most celebrated case involving a Briton was that of Rita Nightingale, a British nurse, sentenced to 20 years in 1977 for drug smuggling. She was released in the early 1980s. Four million tourists visit Thailand every year, four times the figure a decade ago, and last year 95,000 UK residents went there. In Malaysia in particular, tourists are constantly warned of the strict penalties they face if found with drugs.

In Malaysia since 1983 the death sentence has been mandatory for possession of more than 25 grammes of dangerous drugs and three Westerners have been executed. In July 1986 Kevin Barlow, born in Stoke on Trent, and Brina Chambers from Australia, were hanged for heroin smuggling. Three years later Derrick Gregory was executed.

According to the National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners abroad conditions in the Thai prisons are grim. Remand prisoners are held in heavy leg irons which are increased to weigh as much as 15kgs during court appearances. A trial can take up to three years. If defendants win their case the prosecution can get them tried again at least twice for the same offence.

Prisoners must have their own money to buy food, blankets, clothes and medicines and dental treatment. They cannot survive on the daily prison food rations.

There is little violence in Thai prisons as most Thais are Buddhists, but deaths are caused by lack of hygiene.

Parents believe girls were used

By CRAIG SETON

THE parents of one of the British girls charged with attempting to smuggle heroin worth £4 million out of Thailand said yesterday that they believed the girls could have been used by drug-runners.

Patricia Cahill, aged 17, and Karen Smith, aged 18, both from the West Midlands, were thought two weeks ago to have gone on holiday to Scotland. Last night Karen's father left to fly to Bangkok. Patricia's father is expected to follow today. The girls were arrested by customs officials at the international airport as they were about to board a flight to Amsterdam, allegedly carrying 20 kilos of heroin in shampoo bottles and coffee and biscuit tins.

Patricia and Karen, who share a flat in Birmingham, both face long prison sentences if convicted. It was unclear yesterday how two girls who had never before left the country and had little money suddenly travelled to Thailand and allegedly became involved in smuggling.

Patricia's parents said they had been concerned about two men the girls had met and feared they were involved with people using drugs. They believed they may have gone to Thailand with the men.

Patricia's father, Patrick Cahill, aged 43, said she left home five weeks ago to share a flat with Karen, an unemp-

loyed hairdresser, after disagreements about the company she kept. Mr Cahill, a self-employed builder of Coombe Lane, West Heath, Birmingham, said his daughter, a trainee nurse, may have been terrified into carrying drugs or offered money. He said: "They must have been offered money. That has to be the incentive for two girls who were not working to put their lives at risk."

In an interview with the *Birmingham Evening Mail* yesterday, Karen's father, Eric Smith, aged 57, a technician, of Foreddrove Lane, Solihull, said she had telephoned him on July 5 to say she was in Scotland with Patricia. The following day Patricia's mother telephoned to say that they were in Thailand.

Patricia's mother, Frances Cahill, aged 42, said: "We heard she was in Bangkok from a friend. We contacted the police to say she was abroad without our permission, but they said there was nothing we could do."

The couples heard of the arrests late on Wednesday night from West Midlands police. The Foreign Office said yesterday that Carol Downs, British vice consul in Bangkok, had visited the girls. A spokesman said: "They were well although anxious. Legal representatives have been appointed."

Paper to become a tabloid

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MAIN shareholders of *The Sunday Correspondent* have given Peter Cole, the editor, approval for transforming the loss-making broadsheet into Britain's first "quality tabloid" national newspaper.

The "quality", as it has been nicknamed by *Correspondent* journalists, will arrive at newsagents in mid-autumn after "an eloquent and exuberant promotion" aimed at countering the widely-held perception that tabloids must necessarily be downmarket.

Nick Shott, the *Correspondent's* chief executive, said that finance would be in place within a month. Shareholders including *The Guardian* and the Chicago Tribune group were now waiting for the paper to produce "an adequate costing proposal".

The *Correspondent*, which has been losing about £1 million a month since it raised £7 million last March, needs to reach a circulation of 375,000 to 400,000 to break even in the highly competitive Sunday market. Launched last September, the paper is selling just 165,000 copies a week.

Infected children pose HIV threat

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A GENERATION of teenagers infected with the Aids virus since birth may emerge in the next few years and could trigger the spread of the disease among their contemporaries, American specialists say today.

The prediction is based on the case of a girl, aged 12, who is HIV positive but symptom free, having apparently had the infection since infancy. The evidence, reported in today's issue of *The Lancet*, suggests that the virus can be dormant for much longer than had been suspected. The girl's parents were intravenous drug abusers who are HIV-positive. Doctors believe she was infected before or at birth.

Vertical transmission of the virus from mother to child is well-documented, and several thousand babies in America are believed to have been infected in this way. About 200 cases have been recorded in Britain. Studies have suggested that in such children the incubation time has averaged under five years. Among adults, the infection has been recorded as incubating for up to ten years.

"The documentation of

vertically transmitted HIV infection in a symptom-free 12-year-old girl suggests that vertically infected teenagers will appear in the population and may be capable of transmitting HIV infection sexually themselves," the doctors from Houston and New York say. "To try to stem the spread of infection and prolong the disease-free interval in this group, it would be useful to encourage serological testing of symptom-free individuals at high risk of infection for the purpose of counselling and anti-viral treatment."

● The first experimental Aids vaccine to be tested on volunteers has shown promising early results, an international team of researchers reports in *The Lancet*.

Tests on patients with HIV in Zaire show that the vaccine appears to have strengthened the patients' natural defences against the disease. However, it does not seem to have given specific immunity against the virus. Further tests are planned with new HIV-positive volunteers to see if the vaccine can delay the onset of Aids or related illnesses.

Curb urged on low-spenders

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

MANY of Britain's favourite attractions are being swamped with low spending day-trippers and European schoolchildren, leading to demands for tough new measures aimed at limiting the numbers of the wrong sort of tourists.

The English Tourist Board, which yesterday disclosed that the tourism industry earned £14.1 billion in England alone last year, is studying ways of better managing the tide of visitors during the peak summer months to such historic sites as Canterbury cathedral, Cambridge and Westminster abbey. This could be achieved either by enforcing a ticket-only rule for admission or by forcing up prices to discourage

those seeking only a low-cost day out. "Each town, organisation or site is free to decide how they will cope with the problem," William Davis, chairman of the English Tourist Board, said.

"We must recognise, however, that some parts of England have become too successful and that it is vital for the industry to look closely at the impact of tourism on the environment."

One of the main complaints from people living in historic towns such as Canterbury is the large number of organised tours of children and students from France, Germany and Italy who often descend in a noisy throng on a particular

monument on the same day. They also complain of British day-trippers visiting for a few hours and spending only a few pounds.

"This type of visitor spends about £11 a day compared with the hundreds which are spent by Americans, for example, who may stay for a whole week," Mr Davis said. "Some places see the solution in increased prices for admission, rationing tickets or even in putting car parks well away from the main centres of attraction."

Of the £14 billion spent on tourism last year, £8 billion came from British visitors and just over £6 billion from foreigners.



Patricia Cahill, top left, and Karen Smith who face drug smuggling charges in Thailand. Above, a Thai customs officer inspects heroin allegedly found in the girls' luggage as they were about to leave for Amsterdam

Wife let rape go on to save children

A VICAR'S wife allowed herself to be raped to save her sleeping daughters, aged five and seven, from an intruder armed with a spade.

Judge Richardson told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that the woman's sacrifice had destroyed her life. He jailed Kevin Sheridan, aged 31, for nine years.

The judge told Sheridan: "I am sure you succeeded more easily because she was determined you would not go into her children's room."

The court was told that Sheridan had climbed the vicarage stairs brandishing the spade and uttering a threat about the children. Peter Ader, for the prosecution, said that, on the night of the attack, the vicar had been out on church business. Sheridan had advanced on the woman carrying a spade, which he had held up in a menacing fashion, and had then raped her. Mr Ader said: "She showed remarkable presence of mind. She knew the longer she prolonged the assault the less chance of him going into her daughters' bedroom and attacking them."

The court was told that Sheridan had demanded money, but, when he found she had only coppers, had become angry and raped her again.

The vicar had arrived home and he and Sheridan had tumbled downstairs in a struggle. However, the vicar had held the intruder until police arrived.

The court was told that Sheridan, of south London, an unemployed plasterer who was married with two children, had been drinking. He admitted rape, but denied indecent assault and two counts of aggravated burglary. The offences were ordered to lie on the court file.

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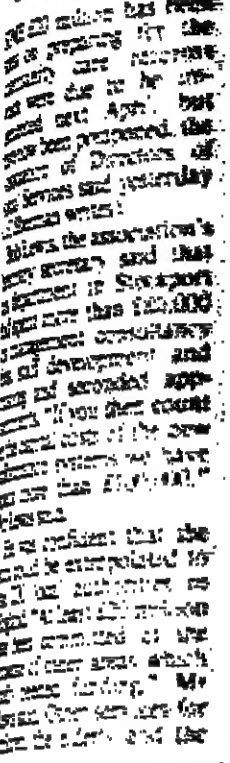
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Hospital long-term waiting lists are halved in shake-up

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A £5 million initiative to tackle hospital waiting times in 22 health districts has halved the number of patients waiting more than a year for treatment, according to a report published yesterday.

The report, from John Yates at the health services management centre in Birmingham, shows that in-patient waiting lists in the districts studied fell by 26,000 and the overall number of patients waiting more than a year fell from 54,657 to 34,509, a drop of 37 per cent. However, the numbers waiting more than 12 months in 43 specialties examined by Mr Yates fell by 49 per cent, from 29,580 to 15,000. Ten thousand additional patients were treated.

In 1988, Mr Yates, who heads the Inter-Authority Comparisons and Consultan-

cy, was commissioned by the health department to look at the 22 districts with the longest waiting times.

National figures, announced on Tuesday by Duncan Nichol, NHS chief executive, showed that 220,000 people had already waited more than a year for operations and 82,000 patients had waited more than two years. Mr Nichol said that the times were unacceptable and had to be improved within 12 months. He said that Mr Yates's work proved this could be done.

The districts Mr Yates looked at shared 21 per cent of England's in-patient waiting lists and 29 per cent of the long wait patients (more than a year). Mr Yates chose 43 specialties which were the worst offenders and were

responsible for half the long waits in the districts. "In our experience, false figures, underfunding of specialties within health authorities and inefficiency were the reasons that so many patients waited so long for treatment," the report said.

The dramatic reduction was achieved by reorganising schedules, setting targets for the number of operations, removing "ghost patients" from lists, employing more staff, and using resources more cost effectively. Mr Yates denied that the operations had been achieved because of the extra resources.

"The 22 districts simply received their share of the £30 million funded centrally. In the remaining 168 health authorities, lists show no sign of reducing. Indeed, between December 1988 and December 1989 there was a small increase," he said.

Mr Yates has now been asked to tackle the next worst 100 districts. The government is determined to show a reduction in waiting times nationally by the end of 1992 which it can then attribute to the success of NHS reforms.

A year of healthy living might help millions of patients with coronary heart disease to get rid of the fat clogging their arteries, according to an American study published in *The Lancet* yesterday. It suggests that the symptoms of even severe coronary artery disease can be reversed within 12 months by moderate exercise, a careful diet and stopping smoking.

Community care delay costs £20m

SOME £20 million has been spent on preparing for the community care reforms which were due to be implemented next April, but have now been postponed, the Association of Directors of Social Services said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

Bob Lewis, the association's honorary secretary said that his department in Stockport had spent more than £80,000 on management consultancy fees, staff development and training and seconded appointments. "If you then count in the capital costs of the new information systems we have spent more than £100,000," Mr Lewis said.

He was confident that the sum could be extrapolated to the 200 local authorities in England. "At least £20 million has been committed at the expense of other areas which badly needed funding," Mr Lewis said. Other services for children, the elderly and the

physically handicapped had probably suffered reductions unnecessarily, he said.

"I will have to face those people who wanted money for adapting homes for the disabled and who were slightly resentful at money being used for what were no more than proposals. I will not be the only one who has to go back and say 'I'm sorry, I made a mistake'."

A lot of money has been spent on computer systems to organise the purchasing of care from the private and voluntary sectors, which has now been delayed for two years. The association is to meet Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, next Thursday to urge her to rethink the delay.

Social services departments fear that councils will now divert money to more pressing areas such as roads and education, endangering the staged community care programme.

Huntsman accused of violence

THE master of a hunt head-butted a businessman who refused to allow them to cross his land on Boxing Day last year, Truro magistrates were told yesterday.

Geoffrey Thomas, aged 35, of Redruth, Cornwall, pleaded not guilty to assaulting John Weavers and causing him actual bodily harm, damaging two cars and using threatening behaviour.

The Curly Hunt was stopped by Mr Weavers outside his cottage at Coverack Bridges, Cornwall. The court was told that Mr Weavers stood in front of more than 20 horses and refused to let them pass.

Mr Thomas said that it was his intention to take the hunt through a gully behind Mr Weavers' cottage. The hunt had followed the same route for generations.

Mr Thomas is said to have got into a car blocking the hunt's path and let off the brake so that it rolled into another car. He was also said to have made threats against one of Mr Weavers' daughters. The case continues today.

Over-55s outspend the rest

BRITAIN'S over-55 population could hold the key to ending the consumer spending recession, a survey has found (David Young writes).

The survey by the market research specialists Signal International has found that people in that age bracket account for £1 in every £3 spent by consumers. Signal says that they spend because they want to, not to meet commitments, and that they do not have the debt burden of people aged from 20 to the early 40s.

Researchers found that the top 10 per cent of the over 55s, about 1.5 million people, spend £28 billion (9 per cent) of the total amount spent annually in Britain, which is more than any other group. More than half of them own their own homes outright and many will soon have their disposable income and wealth boosted through inheritance and improved non-state pension benefits.

Over 55s, *The Invisible Consumer* (Signal International, £1,000)

Prince calls for enterprise funds

By CHARLES KNEVITT, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday urged financial institutions to help fund community projects for training schemes for local entrepreneurs.

The prince, in a speech shown on videotape at the awards ceremony in London of the fifth annual community enterprise scheme sponsored by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, also welcomed an initiative to link community award winners in Britain with those in other parts of Europe.

Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, said that the newspaper had launched an initiative that would twin community projects in the United Kingdom with projects in Hungary and, eventually, with projects in other European countries. The initiative is supported by the Know-How Fund run by the Foreign Office, and will enable a delegation from Hungary to meet the prince and this year's winners.

The prince suggested the creation of a European network of community entrepreneurs who could learn from us, and we from them. "They could visit the best we have to offer, perhaps twinning their ventures with others. There could be an

exchange of personnel on a long-term basis." He also urged banks, building societies, insurance and pension funds to help find a novel solution to the seemingly intractable problem of funding for the projects. "Could they not lend us one or two of their brightest executives so that, together, we can give these award winners a more promising future?"

The prince said that local authorities had shown the way through developing socially responsive investment for their pension funds, while America had done so through a local initiatives support corporation that had raised \$300 million for such projects. "Imagine what we could achieve if the top ten private sector institutions allocated just 1 per cent of their assets to such a strategy."

Eight out of ten people share the views of the Prince of Wales on the lamentable state of modern architecture, according to a survey on British design. Most of the 1,000 adults questioned for the National Power survey wanted the public to have a greater say in urban planning. They wanted more street lighting, safer pedestrian areas, less traffic and litter, and more parks.



Open secret: retired members of the Intelligence Corps preparing to march through Ashford, Kent, yesterday to mark the corps' 50th anniversary

Egg salmonella fear as woman dies in hospital

By LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN patient has died of salmonella food poisoning at a hospital for the mentally handicapped as fears grow over an unexpected rise in the number of cases of one virulent form throughout the country in the past few weeks.

Officials from the health department and the agriculture ministry have met farmers' leaders and representatives of egg and poultry producers to discuss the rise in the number of cases of salmonella enteritidis phase type 4.

Figures released yesterday by the Public Health Laboratory Service show the incidence of cases up by 18 per cent in the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year. The greatest part of the increase to 4,837 cases has been in recent weeks as earlier figures for the first quarter of the year showed a drop of 3 per cent.

Records kept by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre show a rise of 74 per cent in the past six weeks of cases caused by the PT4 type which is linked to eggs and poultry. The rise is of particular concern as experts had been expecting a fall after safeguards introduced by the government.

The woman who died was one of 77 residents and six staff who contracted the illness at Ely Hospital, Cardiff, in the past nine days. Since the death of Mary Haynes, aged 52, the hospital has been closed to visitors and new admissions.

Those suffering from the illness are being treated in an isolation ward. One woman in her 30s whose condition was

more serious was transferred to University Hospital, Cardiff.

A man aged 75, transferred to Sully Hospital, Barry, was last night described as stable but poorly. Miss Haynes died from bronchial pneumonia. An inquest is to be held.

Food samples from Ely Hospital have been analysed at public health laboratories and the source of the infection is believed to have been a raw egg used as a binding agent, although no eggs from the batch were left for testing.

Environmental health officials believe the worst of the outbreak at the 300-patient hospital is over and there are unlikely to be any new cases.

The health department yesterday warned people to store and prepare food correctly, particularly in the present hot spell. Further measures governing the temperatures at which foods are kept during storage, distribution and retail are being phased in. Some fluctuations in figures were expected, the department said. "There is no cause for alarm."

Keith Pulman, secretary of the UK Egg Producers' Association, representing 650 small farmers, said: "We said it was not eggs that were to blame and now they have slaughtered all the birds and still the figures go up. The government has wasted two years blaming eggs while it should have been looking for the real cause."

David Clark, Labour spokesman on agriculture, called for imported eggs to be tested at ports of entry to ensure that they were free of salmonella.

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Count faces ruin after abandoning court case

By RAY CLANCY

COUNT Nikolai Tolstoy yesterday gave up his appeal against £1.5 million damages awarded to Lord Aldington in a libel case last November.

He faces financial ruin after the Court of Appeal in London ruled yesterday that unless Count Tolstoy could find £124,900 within 14 days and deposit it in court as security for costs, his appeal against the record damages should be dismissed at Lord Aldington's request.

Sir Stephen Brown, sitting with Lords Justices Russell and Beldam, said Count Tolstoy was, on his own admission, impecunious and it was clear his appeal had no chance of success.

It was therefore right to make a security for costs order, thus ensuring that Lord Aldington would not have to fund an appeal hearing. They refused the count leave to

appeal to the House of Lords and ordered him to pay the hearing costs estimated at £22,000. Count Tolstoy said: "I cannot possibly raise that kind of money within 14 days so this is the end of the legal road. Lord Aldington will ruin me. My family and I will have to leave our house."

The count, aged 55, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, said that he had no regrets about writing a pamphlet in which he alleged that Lord Aldington arranged the forced repatriation of 70,000 Cossacks and anti-Tito Yugoslavs, many of whom were subsequently massacred, when he was serving as Brigadier General Staff in the Eighth Army V Corps in southern Austria at the close of the second world war.

Lord Aldington, a former Conservative party deputy chairman, aged 76, of Aldington, Kent, said later he was relieved the case was now nearing its end. "This will be the first August since 1986 when I have not had this hanging over me," he said that he would be discussing with his solicitor what his next move would be to recover costs and damages.

Count Tolstoy said he would not go bankrupt voluntarily. "I will be bankrupt, but not voluntarily. I shall wait for Lord Aldington to issue proceedings. I don't worry so much for myself as for my family," he said.

Earlier this year Count Tolstoy rejected an offer from Lord Aldington to forego all but £300,000 of the damages if the count withdrew his appeal. At the hearing, an appeal by Lord Aldington against a decision by Mr Registrar Adams that Count Tolstoy need not pay money into court as a security, Count Tolstoy argued against a security for costs order. He claimed that the summing-up by the trial judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, had been unfair and unbalanced and the judge had encouraged the jury to award excessive damages.

Lord Justice Beldam said the fact that the count had "failed to convince the jury of the charges against Lord Aldington was amply demonstrated by its unprecedented and enormous award of £1.5 million. It was as astounding a demonstration of the count's conduct as could possibly be imagined."

It was also clear that, having heard Lord Aldington recall to the best of his ability during six and a half days in the witness box the complex events of May 1945 in which he took part, the jury was "determined to demonstrate its satisfaction that he played no part in and bore no responsibility for this shameful episode of history."

Sir Stephen said he did not consider that the criticisms of the trial judge were justified. He had dealt with all the matters "fully and fairly" and his direction on damages was "impeccable".

Lord Justice Russell said: "Count Tolstoy has fought this case and he has lost because the jury found against him. He should now accept it. If he cannot accept it, he should at least acknowledge that it was a verdict the jury was entitled to reach. The libel remains as serious a libel as it is possible to imagine. Justice demands that Count Tolstoy should provide security."

The couple were granted bail on condition that they surrendered their passports and lived at Pluto Close, Leicester. They then left the court for the funeral.

Their case was adjourned until August 30 for committal proceedings to Leicester Crown Court.

JPs told of euthanasia attempt in hospital

A BROTHER and sister tried to kill their terminally ill mother as an act of mercy as she lay in a hospital bed, Leicester magistrates were told yesterday.

Andrew Thompson, aged 25, a hotel manager, and his sister Nicola, aged 21, a student and single mother of two, are accused of attempting to murder their mother, Pauline Barber, to spare her further pain. The two were charged on July 5, two days after the alleged offence.

Mrs Barber, aged 58, had cancer and was expected to live only a few days when they visited her at Leicester Royal Infirmary on July 3, magistrates were told. She pleaded with them from her hospital bed: "Please let me die. People have a right to die."

Sue Lawley, for the prosecution, said Mr Thompson altered the dosage of diamorphine being injected into his mother's body at regular intervals by a motorised syringe drive, while his sister comforted her. The syringe's entire contents were emptied into Mrs Barber's body in one potentially fatal dose, but doctors gave her an antidote and she survived. Mrs Barber died on Sunday from her illness. Her son and daughter were due to attend her funeral yesterday.

Miss Lawley said: "Whatever our views on euthanasia, it is still a criminal offence and attempted murder."

Oliver D'Sa, for the defence, said: "No attempt was made to conceal the incident. Their actions, guided or misguided, were for the welfare of their mother. Nicola and Andrew admitted to nursing staff at the hospital what they had done once the incident was discovered."

The couple were granted bail on condition that they surrendered their passports and lived at Pluto Close, Leicester. They then left the court for the funeral.

Their case was adjourned until August 30 for committal proceedings to Leicester Crown Court.



Up in arms: Teresa Gorman, the Tory MP, with children from Ravensdale House Nursery, Milton Keynes, at the launch in London yesterday of the Campaign for Tax Relief and Childcare, which wants tax relief on workplace nurseries extended to private childminders and crèches

Teachers demand primary test delay

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TWO main teacher unions will today demand that compulsory testing of pupils aged seven is either withdrawn or postponed for a year because of the extra work required by teachers.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has said that to reduce the burden on teachers, children at seven and eleven need only be tested in mathematics, English and science, and not all ten National Curriculum subjects as originally planned.

Mr MacGregor is determined to introduce the tests in all 20,000 primary schools in England and Wales next spring but is looking at ways of slimming down the pilot tests that were carried out in 400 primary schools at Easter using three different systems.

Heads and teachers complained that they were too complicated and distressed pupils, parents and staff. Some heads and teachers have said that they would be prepared to break the law and refuse to carry out the standard assessment tests.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association is asking Mr MacGregor to delay the introduction of testing for a further year. The association says pilot tests have shown the administration of the tests to be onerous and unmanageable. Doug McAvoy, of the National Union of Teachers, has also urged Mr MacGregor to withdraw the tests, saying that they damaged the education of the children taking the tests and others in the school who were not.

The education department said last night: "The outcome of the pilots is being evaluated and the lessons of that evaluation will be taken on board in developing the tests for 1991."

Girls are more concerned than boys in improving their education, a report published yesterday says. The survey carried out by local authority careers officers, which looked at 621,000 pupils aged 16 in England and Wales, found that 48 per cent stayed in full-time education, made up of 52.4 per cent girls and 41.7 per cent boys.

Blake escape pair win first round

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TWO peace campaigners fighting to avoid what they claim would be an oppressive trial for their roles in helping the double agent George Blake escape from prison 24 years ago won important test case rulings in the High Court yesterday.

In the face of objections from the Director of Public Prosecutions, the court held that it had power to hear an application by Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle for their criminal trial to be stopped. They argue that this should be done on the ground that after such a long delay, the prosecution would be oppressive and an abuse of the process of the court.

The court will hear legal argument next week on whether the trial, due to take place at the Central Criminal Court, should be allowed to go ahead.

Defence lawyers indicated that they may apply to the court for Rollo Watts, the Special Branch chief inspector then in charge of the investigation into the Blake escape and now retired, to give evidence.

The ruling has implications for delays in the criminal justice system. It confirms that the High Court has a power of review over a crown court where it decides to let proceed a prosecution that is arguably stale because of the delay in bringing it to trial.

Richard Gordon, a barrister who specialises in judicial review, said: "This decision is surprising. Nobody doubted that the High Court had this power in relation to magistrates' courts where abuse of process was alleged; and we have already had a spate of cases on this. What we will now see is a spate of cases reviewing decisions of crown court judges in such cases."

In a second important ruling for the two campaigners yesterday, Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Hutchison also overturned a blanket ban by David Waddington, the home secretary, which stopped the disclosure to them of police documents about the case.

Lord Justice Watkins ordered disclosure to their lawyers of the March 1970 report prepared by Mr Watts.

Mr Pottle, aged 51, a retired London antiques dealer, and Mr Randle, a university lec-

turer, aged 56, say that it would be wrong for them to be prosecuted such a long time after Blake's escape from Wormwood Scrubs in October 1966, especially as the police had evidence to bring charges against them nearly 20 years ago.

Lord Justice Watkins said the court would give reasons later for its ruling, which has wide-ranging implications, that it has jurisdiction to review a crown court decision [in this case the ruling by a judge at the Central Criminal Court that the pair should stand trial] when it was alleged that a trial could amount to an abuse of the legal process.

He ordered that circulation of Mr Watts' report should be confined to Mr Pottle, of Northview Road, Crouch End, north London, and Mr Randle, of Hollingwood Lane, Bradford, west Yorkshire, and their lawyers and should only be used for the present litigation.

Philip Havers, counsel for the home secretary, who had opposed disclosure of the documents, said that there might be an appeal to the House of Lords against the court's ruling on jurisdiction but he was not last night giving notice of any appeal on the disclosure point.

Drivers urged to combat pollution

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MOTORISTS must learn to use their vehicles more thoughtfully if their contribution to atmospheric pollution is to be reduced, Simon Dyer, director general of the Automobile Association (AA) said yesterday.

Mr Dyer, launching the AA's voluntary code of practice for reducing dangerous exhaust emissions, called on motorists to think hard about the way they used their vehicles and to use alternatives where possible. He said it was possible to strike a balance between concern for the environment and increased vehicle ownership, providing motorists learned to drive in a manner that was more socially acceptable.

Acknowledging that motorists were responsible for a growing proportion of the greenhouse gases believed to contribute to global warming, Mr Dyer said: "The most direct way to help the environment is to burn less fuel."

As part of a campaign backed by David Trippier, the environment minister, and Roger Freeman, the transport minister, the AA director general called on motorists to use their cars only when necessary, share journeys, adhere to speed limits, convert to unleaded petrol and install

autocatalysts. Long-term solutions entailed a choice between reduced vehicle ownership and usage, and technological solutions to vehicle emissions.

"The former would be totally unacceptable to the majority of the population," Mr Dyer said. Vehicle manufacturers had to give greater priority to developing cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars. The government had to press ahead with the road-building programme to reduce congestion and consequent pollution, and introduce financial incentives to encourage people to use public transport.

Britain's protectionist trade policies add around 20 per cent to the cost of a Japanese car, the National Consumer Council claims in a report published today (Lin Jenkins writes). Measures designed to protect the European motor industry push up prices and reduce choice available to consumers and should be abolished in 1992 to create a common market for cars.

A recent study found that UK pre-tax car prices were 61 per cent higher than those in Denmark and 31 per cent higher than prices in Belgium. A Fiat Uno 605 cost £5,177 in the UK, £2,901 in Denmark and £3,859 in Belgium.

Student held by Dutch in IRA hunt

A Dutch student, aged 19, has been detained on suspicion of aiding IRA gunmen who killed two Australian tourists in May, police in the Dutch town of Roermond said yesterday. The woman was believed to have rented a hideout in The Hague for the gunmen, according to a police statement.

Police said they had also found a template in her apartment in Amstelveen, a suburb of Amsterdam, which they believe was used to make a bogus number plate for a car used by the gunmen, the statement said. Police apprehended the woman at a Dutch-German border crossing about 16 miles from Roermond on Wednesday.

The suspect, identified by her initials IH, is believed to be the girl friend of an IRA suspect in custody and known only by an assumed name, Andrew Edward Thornton, the statement said. He is being held in connection with the shooting of the Australians Nick Spanos and Stephen Melrose on May 27.

Libel damages

Ajitabh Bachchan, an Indian businessman and friend of Rajiv Gandhi, won substantial libel damages from the English edition of the Swedish paper *Dagens Nyheter* in the High Court over allegations of links with an arms deal scandal.

Driver remanded

Simon Peter Russell, a van driver aged 26, was remanded in custody charged with possession of explosives and violent disorder after police raided his home at Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells.

Matches blamed

Two young children died after being trapped inside a car that had almost certainly been set on fire when one of them played with matches, a coroner said at Sale, Cheshire.

Footballer's win

Paul Gascoigne, the England footballer, won substantial libel damages in the High Court over a *Sunday Mirror* article alleging that he had "cheated on his girl friend" while on tour in Sweden.

Trust fund

News International, the parent company of *The Times*, has donated £3.5 million to establish a community trust for the Wapping area of east London where its main plant is situated.

Train driver tackles the littered lines

By PETER DAVENPORT

FOR more than 30 years as a British Rail engine driver, Bryan North took his trains into most of the main stations throughout the country. His opinion of many of those routes, through trackside decay, dereliction and litter, is unflattering.

"Those rail corridors act as shop windows to the communities which surround them and in many cases they reflect badly and often unfairly on them," he says. "It is hardly the impression they would want to give to visiting businessmen and tourists."

Now Mr North has been given the chance to do something about it. British Rail has seconded the driver, based in Leeds, to work with the Groundwork Foundation, the environmental regeneration group, to develop schemes and generate finance to improve Britain's rail corridors.

In the first 12 months of the project he has put together schemes worth more than £1 million, bringing in finance from the European Commission, British Rail environment fund, local authorities, central government and the private sector.

Projects are under way to improve the view from the carriage window at Leeds city station, in Wakefield, Durham, along the coastal route from Darlington to Newcastle upon Tyne, via Hartlepool and Sunderland, on the Liverpool-Southport line.

Further schemes are under consideration for Manchester and on the Settle-Carlisle route. It is intended that others will follow.

Derelict buildings are being improved, litter removed and sections of track landscaped. Mr North, a Labour councillor in Leeds for the past 11



Mr North: Success has been phenomenal

years and former chairman of the city's planning and urban development committees, can be persuasive in encouraging a broad spectrum of involvement in his schemes.

In one project to clear such litter as abandoned mattresses, prams and bicycles from the side of the York-to-Leeds line near Garforth he arranged for the probation service to provide 50 men sentenced to community service to spend four Sundays removing the debris.

In some of the areas projects were already under way before Mr North's appointment but he has been able to bring in extra finance and ideas to enlarge the schemes. British Rail carries out improvement to property it owns but much of the land and buildings alongside lines is privately owned and the intention is to involve owners in projects.

Leeds city station, British Rail planned to extend its Inter-City car park and included a £77,000 landscaping scheme as part of the project. With Mr North's involvement the fund for landscaping has risen to £287,000. Mr North is also chairing a working party of ten local authorities and the Tyne and Wear

passenger transport authority to develop improvement schemes on the coastal route between Darlington and Newcastle.

The Groundwork Foundation was set up in Birmingham in 1985 as the headquarters for the Groundwork trusts, which initiate their own environmental improvement schemes in towns and cities.

The foundation receives funds from central government, the Countryside Commission, the European Commission, through industrial sponsorship and by selling its consultancy services. It has completed more than 3,000 environmental projects in the past five years, working with 3,000 organisations and 50 local authorities.

Mr North said: "The success so far has been phenomenal but it is not going to be a job completed in a short time. It will take years. But there are no political obstacles because the end result is desired by everybody, those living near the tracks as well as those travelling on the trains. In the end, environmental improvement along the lines can lead to the creation of new jobs by encouraging tourism and providing attractive locations for new industries."

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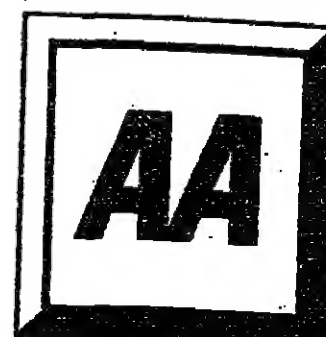
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Second chance on pub tenants

The government is to be given another chance to redeem its pledge to protect brewery tenants who may face eviction, Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, introduced a bill to give protection to tenants after the government's apology for failing to do so despite undertaking it had given.

The bill will come up for all its stages in the Lords on Monday and the Opposition is confident that the government will accept it because it makes good a promise made by Lord Trevelyan, minister for trade.

The doubt is whether the Commons will be prepared to find time for the bill. Labour managers in the Lords say that Labour MPs would pass it swiftly.

Rear-seat rule nearer

The wearing of rear seat belts in cars has become mandatory. MPs were told in a written reply, Robert Atkins, roads and traffic minister, said that 307 rear-seat passengers who were not wearing belts were killed in 1988 and nearly 4,000 seriously injured. Research indicated that two-thirds of those casualties could have been saved by the wearing of belts.

Now that most cars had rear seats, the time was approaching when it would be reasonable to consider the introduction of mandatory wearing by adults.

Rail move

The Railway Inspectorate is to be transferred in the autumn to the Health and Safety Executive, Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, said in a written reply.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Motion for the summer recess and consolidated fund bill debates on a variety of topics.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the economy. Wednesday: Courts and Legal Services bill, remaining stages. Thursday: Summer recess debates.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: British Nationality (Hong Kong) bill and Landlord and Tenant (Consent) bill, third readings. Employment bill, report.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: Broadcasting bill, committee continued.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on promoting good health. Lords (11): Finance bill, all stages.

Hopes fading for early success of Brooke talks

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

N IRELAND

HOPES are fading that Peter Brooke will be able to announce to Parliament next week that he has reached agreement on a framework for talks in the autumn on devolution in Northern Ireland.

Mr Brooke has held lengthy discussions with Irish government ministers to overcome difficulties that had led them to delay his plan to announce details of his initiative two weeks ago.

He told MPs yesterday that he believed that the differences had narrowed, but he admitted there was still a gap.

The stumbling block remains the precise moment when the Irish government will become involved in a three-tier structure of talks involving the constitutional parties in the North, links between the North and South and relations between London and Dublin.

A new proposal to overcome the difficulty raised by the Irish government's role in the talks is believed to have been submitted to Mr Brooke by the Social Democratic and Labour party. It focuses on the timing and nature of so-called "North-South" negotiations and was worked out by party officials after meetings with ministers in Dublin.

Although no details of the SDLP plan are available and no meetings have been scheduled by Mr Brooke to discuss it with Unionists, SDLP sources describe it as an attempt to address the concerns of all parties to the process.

Mr Brooke had intended to make a full statement to the Commons before the summer recess which begins next Thursday.

day, but last night that prospect appeared to be fading. In the past he had indicated that a failure to make a statement would risk the whole process unravelling, but officials now say he is under no pressure from MPs to make a statement and that all sides would rather he continued with his efforts than that a parliamentary deadline should be imposed.

In private, all parties are positioning themselves in readiness to apportion blame if the initiative fails. However, in the Commons nationalist and Unionist politicians held back from pointing the accusatory finger.

Mr Brooke praised the restraint shown by all constitutional parties in the North during the past two weeks. He said that a large measure of agreement had been reached about the various preliminary points of principle, and also about the structure, format and timing any talks might have.

"It is of course for the other potential participants in these talks to assess the best interests of those they represent. But, given the potential benefits of political dialogue, my own judgment is that, with continuing good will, the outstanding matters which divide them could be resolved so that talks could be announced."

"I am ready to continue my efforts to facilitate the process, but such an announcement clearly cannot yet be made."

Unionist politicians are increasingly pessimistic about the chances of Mr Brooke's being able to overcome the existing difficulties and they say that it is the Irish government and the SDLP that are blocking movement on a possible way forward. One leading Unionist said: "If this process breaks down, our hands will be clean. It will not be our fault."

At question time in the Commons, Ivor Sunbrook (Orpington, C) said that honest negotiations had been going on for some time. He said that the Irish prime minister had insisted that the republic should be consulted at every stage of the negotiations.



Peter Brooke, who said a gap remained

used the strategy of the Armaite and the bomb in one hand and the ballot box in the other must forgo the right to stand for election to Parliament.

Mr Brooke said that he kept the question of proscription of organisations constantly under review.

Barry Porter (Wirral, South, C) said Mr Brooke should cease the pretence that the Anglo-Irish agreement had achieved any of its fundamental aims. It had not, he wished Mr Brooke success in his discussions, but there was no reason to blame those MPs who represented the Unionist cause, who had shown good will towards reaching some agreement. "Let us put the blame, if these talks fail, where it lies — on Dublin."

Mr Brooke said that the talks he was engaged in were likely to make more progress if they concentrated on looking forward.

Thatcher accused of ratting on pledge

PRIME MINISTER

MARGARET Thatcher was accused of "ratting" on her promise on payments for care in the community during a question-time exchange with Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition.

The prime minister replied by comparing Labour's record with that of the present government and saying that, while Labour talked, the government acted, and that certain aspects of the community care programme were going ahead.

Mr Kinnock said the concern about the family that Mrs Thatcher expressed in her speech on Wednesday would be widely shared and was praiseworthy. "Given that concern, can she tell us what she thinks most damages families: the highest mortgages in history; the poll tax; the freeze of child benefit; or abandonment of community care?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the greatest material support the government could give families was to keep the economy going, producing the highest number of jobs in the country's history; the highest standard of living; the best social services and then to give particular support to lone-parent families.

Mr Kinnock: That reply shows the unbridgeable gap between what she says is her concern for the family and what she is prepared to do about it.

It was announced yesterday that the government is ratting on its pledge to provide help for people who care for elderly and disabled people at home and for some of the most needy and certainly some of the most deserving people in the whole land.

Mrs Thatcher: Local authorities are spending half as much again on personal social services over and above inflation than in 1979: a total of 32 per cent on day care, 26 per cent on home helps and 13 per cent on meals services for disabled and elderly people in residential and nursing homes, and for every £1 that Labour spent we are spending £100. They talk. We deliver the goods.

Prime minister getting ready for manifesto

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher raised the political tempo by asking her ministers at yesterday's cabinet meeting each to set up a policy group attached to his department to begin preparing ideas for the election manifesto. The groups will be set up in the autumn and will be expected to complete their work by early next year.

The prime minister was not intending to put her MPs on a war footing, but she wishes to keep open the option of an election next summer, despite the expectation of Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, that the contest will be in 1992. If the policy making process had been started any later, it would have been too late for detailed plans to be ready for a manifesto next summer.

Giving her traditional address to Conservative MPs at last night's end-of-term meeting of the backbench 1922 committee, Mrs Thatcher said that the ministers would be co-opting MPs, notably chairmen and officers of specialist backbench committees, for the policy groups. Ministers have been asked to think about who should join the advisory teams and to report to Downing Street in the autumn.

Mrs Thatcher will take charge of shaping the party's electoral

appeal, chairing the manifesto committee herself. But efforts by some to exclude Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, from the manifesto process have been thwarted.

Sir Geoffrey, who was also confirmed yesterday as the chairman of the "star chamber", should that body be required to adjudicate in spending disputes between the Treasury and other ministries, is to be the deputy chairman of the policy group.

Final membership will not be settled until the autumn, but will definitely include John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Douglas Hogg, the foreign secretary, Kenneth Baker, David Waddington, the home secretary, and John Wakeham, the energy secretary.

The secretariat of the manifesto committee will be provided by Downing Street by Robin Harris, the former director of the Conservative research department now in the policy unit, and by John Whittingdale, the prime minister's political secretary.

Mrs Thatcher has been inviting in groups of backbenchers over the past few months for general policy discussions and she has in recent weeks entertained most of the Conservative-inclined think tanks such as the Centre for Policy Studies.

Year's takeover ban

TAKEOVERS are to be banned for only a year after television companies begin broadcasting under their new franchises in 1993. Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister, stuck to the government's proposal that the moratorium on takeovers, enabling the new companies to avoid immediate takeover bids, should be for only 12 months, despite the demands of Labour and the Liberal Democrats for at least two years.

The minister was defending the government's moratorium proposals during the committee stage of the Broadcasting bill in the Lords.

He said the prospect of takeovers was an specialist market

discipline, but that did not mean there would be a free-for-all. If there were takeovers after the moratorium, the new owners would still be subject to the oversight of the Independent Television Commission.

Although the ban on takeovers would be for a year from the moment broadcasting began in 1993, it would really take effect from the issue of the licences up to a year before, so that the new companies would have two years to prepare.

Lady Birk, Labour spokeswoman on broadcasting, said the Opposition was grateful for the concession, but it would be much more sensible to have the additional year.

Britain 'marginalised on EC'

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR LEON Brittan implicitly criticised the prime minister last night for his attitudes towards sovereignty and the development of the European Community. Without mentioning Margaret Thatcher by name, he said that Britain was being marginalised by those who kept returning to the issue of sovereignty and continued to misrepresent the community.

In the wake of Nicholas Ridley's resignation from the government, Sir Leon told a meeting of the Bruges group that for some people the debate over Europe never seemed to move on.

Sir Leon, vice-president of the European Commission, said at the meeting in London: "Too often Britain is marginalised by those who continue to worry away at the bone of sovereignty and by those who perpetuate a caricature of what the community represents". People were perplexed by the mixed signals they received about the community and Britain risked being ignored because the rest of the EC was bored with such attitudes. He made no reference to Mrs Thatcher in

his speech, but the thrust of his argument was a contradiction of her concern at the possible loss of more British sovereignty. It was a myth that national honour required Britain to take a vow of legislative chastity, Sir Leon said.

There had been a sincere but misguided tendency to parade and legitimise the status quo under the colours of national sovereignty, but sovereignty should not be considered a theoretical or constitutional absolute. It was a practical concept.

Sir Leon added: "We pride ourselves, after all, on our pragmatism. Yet, all too often, it is the British who have become doctrinaire... Westminster sometimes seems less interested in how it can best exert practical influence on questions of concern to Britain than in how it can preserve the illusion of omnipotence and the trappings of power."

He outlined a proposal for a committee, of members from each of the 12 national parliaments, to provide a link between the council of ministers and the member states.

Labour prepares for Lords moves

By RONALD FAUX

A REVITALISED Labour front bench will be announced in the Lords this autumn giving Neil Kinnock the scope for appointing a group of about twenty ministers in a future Labour government with a first-class record in public life.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, will reshuffle his spokesmen, weaving in new members and those who have returned to the Lords from other careers.

Among them are expected to be Lord Grenfell, who is returning to Britain from Washington this summer where he has been the World Bank's special adviser. Some front bench candidates have been Commons ministers yet are young enough to serve again. Mr Kinnock is expected to call on Lord Cledwyn, the former agriculture minister now aged 73, to become leader of the Lords to give stability in a Labour administration's first year.

Britain's permanent representative to the United Nations in the Seventies, and a former defence minister, Lord Richard, who entered the upper House in the latest list of working peers, is

also marked down as a potential minister. As a leading Labour lawyer, he is near the top of the shortlist for the woolsack in a Labour government. The other main candidate will be Lord Irvine of Lairg, a recorder.

Lord Clinton-Davis is also willing to return to ministerial office and is adding weight to the Labour benches on European and environmental issues as a former EC commissioner.

The deputy leader of the Labour peers, Lord Williams of Elvel, is likely to stay as Labour's chief trade and industry spokesman. He has spent 20 years in the City. The former social services secretary, Lord Ennals, while continuing to be active in the Lords as chief health spokesman, at 67 is unlikely to want a lower ministerial post.

Lord Graham of Edmonton, a former Labour MP, has been elected chief whip after the death of the hereditary peer, Lord Ponsonby. Labour peers are hoping that Lord Ponsonby, aged 32, who is a Wandsworth councillor, will take over his father's seat.

Hard-left purge is welcomed

By RONALD FAUX

THE Labour leader of Liverpool City Council yesterday welcomed the prospect of a new purge of hard-left councillors by the Labour party national executive.

Commenting on speculation that a further 14 Labour councillors in Liverpool are to be suspended as well as the city's district Labour party and its women's council, Harry Rimmer said: "Disciplinary action is necessary and I believe there will be further suspensions. It is sad that this council is once again the subject of an inquiry, but if the decision clears the air then it is to be welcomed."

Fifteen Labour councillors of a total of 67 are already suspended for defying the party whip when they voted against setting the poll tax.

The latest rebels voted against attempts by the council to balance the city's books with a rise in council house rents which have remained frozen for several years.

Mr Rimmer, a Kinnock supporter, said it was doubtful that the divisions in the council would amount to a serious split

since the councillors in question would still vote along Labour party lines on most important issues.

But Eddie Loyden, MP for Garston and chairman of Liverpool district Labour party, accused bureaucrats of meddling in local democracy. "We are supposed to be a democratic party," he said, "but the officers of the district party in Liverpool have not even been informed about this inquiry. It seems this is yet another purge of supposed militants and is a public relations exercise by the leadership. People will inevitably wonder why the Labour party is seeking to punish councillors whose only crime is to oppose the poll tax and rent rises."

The suspension of 29 councillors from Liverpool's major Labour group would mean that the city would remain in the control of the largest group of 38 moderate councillors who have been dubbed "progressives". They could find themselves short of support when contentious issues such as rent rises and poll tax are voted on.

Tory MEPs press for single currency

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITISH Conservative members of the European Parliament are intensifying their efforts to encourage the government to accept a single European currency and an independent central bank.

Sir Christopher Prout, leader of the British Conservatives, and Mr John Stevens, Conservative MEP for Thames Valley, gave evidence yesterday to the House of Lords select committee on monetary and political union.

Afterwards Mr Stevens said that Britain could not hope to enter the European monetary union slowly as it was the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system. The rest of the Community decided on economic and monetary union and ministers had suggested it would, then that would be tantamount to stepping outside the EC and applying for re-entry, he said. Mon-



Sir Christopher: gave evidence to Lords committee

would be appalling. The status of the City of London as a financial centre would be undermined, overseas investors would be deterred from investing in Britain and the competitiveness of industry would be badly damaged.

Mr Stevens and Sir Christopher argued that the impetus for economic and monetary union, which they believed was underestimated in Britain, derived from German unification.

Mr Stevens said that other European partners saw monetary union with a single currency and an independent central bank as a way of lessening the decisive role of the mark and of the Bundesbank. Germany was willing to go along with that because it wanted to spread across Europe the costs of developing the economies of East Germany and other Eastern European states. The "window of opportunity" would not last long. The Germans would not be so interested in monetary union in five or six years' time

when they had borne the pain of Eastern European development on their own and their investment was beginning to pay off.

Mr Stevens said that it was impossible to conceive of Britain operating a second tier membership of the EC, as Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, had suggested on Sunday that it might. With an open economy such as we had, a second tier was possible only if the economy was re-regulated and exchange controls were reimposed.

The British Conservative MEPs have rejected the hard currency plan of John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Stevens said that they did not believe in an expanded stage two of the Delors plan and in parallel currencies. But Mr Major's plan was an important contribution to the search for ways of exerting anti-inflationary financial discipline and preventing EC members borrowing by means of the market rather than through a supra-national authority.

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Bulgaria risks new turmoil as Zhivkov seeks revenge

From TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

DURING its first week in existence, Bulgaria's new parliament has succeeded in ensuring the country's political turmoil will increase by inviting the country's former dictator, Todor Zhivkov, to appear before it.

Two weeks ago, President Mladenov resigned following a damaging political scandal. By standing down before the opening of parliament, he left the country in a constitutional mess. Parliament has not elected a new president and the government has been paralysed.

The invitation to the former communist dictator will only make the situation worse. Mr Zhivkov ruled Bulgaria with an iron hand for 35 years. Last November he was toppled in an internal party coup and was arrested soon afterwards. On Wednesday, he was released as the authorities had failed to come up with credible case against him.

But Mr Zhivkov is unrepentant, and, according to Roumen Vodenicharov, a human rights activist and opposition MP, he is angry at the way he was treated by his former colleagues.

After his fall, Mr Zhivkov's communist party was renamed the Socialist party and went on to win last month's elections. However, the leadership remained largely intact, and a vengeful Mr Zhivkov threatens to destroy these men.

"It is a risk we have to face," said Chavdar Kyurkchanov, the socialist presidential candidate.

But the socialists face a greater risk than simply losing a few top figures. For Mr Zhivkov's threatened retaliation could accelerate the

disintegration of a party already split between conservatives and social democratically-inclined reformers.

Meanwhile, to the fury of the trade unions, the Zhivkov debate and the parliament's interminable constitutional wrangle have further delayed the crucial economic decisions that must be made. In the first six months of this year inflation and unemployment have begun shooting up, productivity is declining rapidly and many staple products have simply run out.

There are queues for bread and those seeking petrol may have to wait for up to ten hours. The unions have issued a statement saying that they demand: "The formation of a working and competent government without any further delay." If this and other points are not met by Monday then they have promised to start a series of nationwide strikes.

Emilian Abadshiev, a union official, said: "We have no intention of watching passively as this country remains on the periphery of changes within Eastern Europe or its falling prey to inter-party strife and thus ending up in international isolation again."

According to one western diplomat, unless something is done quickly this is exactly what will happen to Bulgaria. He said: "Officialdom here is immensely naive. For example, they want Western aid but they don't understand that they have to go and lobby for it. They think Western governments are simply going to come here and give them millions of dollars."

As if the political and economic problems were not urgent enough, Bulgarian nationalists have, in the past few days, paralysed local government in the south eastern town of Kardzali by preventing access to all municipal buildings. They are protesting against the election by the one-million strong Turkish minority of their own MPs, who have duly taken their seats in parliament.

According to Kardzali's nationalists, the ethnic Turkish party, the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, is a "terrorist organisation". But its leader, Ahmed Dogan, made one of the most measured and conciliatory speeches when parliament opened. "We are all Bulgarians," he said, "we must all work together for the best interest of our fatherland." So far his words have fallen on deaf ears.

Mongolia vows to open up economy

From REUTERS IN ULAN BATOR

MONGOLIA'S Communist party, preparing to face the voters for the first time since seizing power 69 years ago, plans to allow ownership of private property and may sell off state assets.

Kinayit Zardykhan, the deputy prime minister, said that the reform process would move ahead after the country's first free elections on July 29, which the communists are widely expected to win.

"We must quickly adopt a law on private property and open our economy to all foreign countries," he said. Mr Zardykhan, a key figure in the party's reform wing, said Mongolia would consider allowing foreign firms to take over ailing industries, and he also wanted to develop co-operative companies.

Mongolia at present has no private industry. It is still considered illegal under its communist system, which is the oldest after the Soviet Union. However, the government has recently issued permits for four private companies, and has approved 420 new co-operatives in recent months.

The communists, officially known as the Mongolian People's Revolutionary party, are expected to win the elections because of their organisation, support among nomadic herders and a fragmented opposition. But, diplomats said, the communists now sounded less and less like Marxists.

Dreams of Italy brighten Albania's stalinist gloom

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN VLORE, ALBANIA

TELEVISION serials in Vlore pull in the sounds and sights of another world only 40 miles away across the Adriatic Sea. "We all dream of Italy," sighed a waiter at a government-run restaurant.

Residents interviewed by a reporter on a one-day ferry trip from Italy all expressed a desire to go abroad. Some appeared to want better lives, while others longed to escape the grip of Europe's last hardline communist regime.

Their quick, whispered comments suggested that the discontent that drove thousands of Albanians to seek refuge in embassies in Tirana, the capital, was present in other regions. "There's nothing in this country to live for," declared a young economist angrily.

Like the others interviewed, he declined to be identified.

Albanians can receive harsh punishments for contacts with foreigners.

Vlore, 60 miles southwest of Tirana, provides a glimpse of life in Europe's poorest and most isolated country. Most of its population of 70,000 live in five-storey blocks of flats. Laundry flaps from the balconies, and in the rocky, white dirt around the buildings, thin children in patched clothes play under a baking sun.

Asked whether residents had problems getting enough food, a mechanic looked around to see if anyone was listening, then nodded. Cars are forbidden to individuals. On the broad, palm-lined road to the Vlore port, horses and wagons rattle past cyclists.

But nearly every building has a television aerial, allowing residents to watch Italian programmes. Locals, spotting

a group of Italian tourists, called out the names of Italian football players, and a few debated the merits of Italian pop stars. One student, a member of the Roman Catholic minority, said he liked to watch the Pope on Italian television. Until recently, religious observances were banned in Albania. "When I see him, I cry," he said.

It was through Italian television that many Albanians learnt about the revolutions in Eastern Europe last year, as well as the boatlift that carried 4,500 Albanian asylum-seekers to Italy and France last week. Those interviewed this week spoke of widespread discontent in Albania. But they said they did not expect a revolution like those in Eastern Europe. "There are so many simple people here," said the economist.



Uniform protest: hundreds of East German policemen demonstrating in Berlin yesterday in a demand for improved working conditions

Wrangle over Berlin's Soviet arsenal

From ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

THE Soviet Union and the two Germanies are locked in a new tangle over military equipment supplied by Moscow to East Germany over years of close Warsaw Pact co-operation.

With East Germany set to join Nato after unification, its forces have no further use for the hardware. The West German government wants to return to Moscow Soviet tanks, ships and aircraft after unification in December when East German forces will be merged with the Bundeswehr.

The hardware includes new MiG-29 fighter-jets still awaiting delivery, as well as older combat aircraft such as Su-22s, MiG-23s and MiG-21s.

Moscow is reluctant to take back the equipment because of

the estimated DM 100 million (£33 million) cost of destroying it under the terms of the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

Chief Lieutenant Uwe Hempel, a spokesman for the East German Volkarmee, said yesterday that East Berlin had received assurances that Moscow would take back the equipment. The thorny question of who will meet the cost of destroying it is currently the subject of high-level negotiations. "It is a costly business," he said.

West German military commanders have told Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, that they are not prepared to operate Soviet hardware alongside their US and European equipment as such integration

would pose logistical problems.

"We have no use for Soviet equipment in our armed forces. We are not going to fly MiGs or train in T-72 tanks. They can have them back and we may even pay them for it," a high-ranking West German source was quoted as telling *Jan's Defence Weekly*.

East Germany is thought to have over 2,000 tanks, 800 artillery pieces and 380 combat aircraft. The cost of destroying a single T-72 tank, is estimated at DM 60,000.

Bonn has said that it will honour East German contracts for Soviet deliveries even if it means returning the unused equipment.

Rainer Eppelmann, the East German defence minister,

meanwhile confirmed that the separate identity of the Volkarmee will disappear at the beginning of next year when soldiers will be given new Bundeswehr uniforms. "We will be one country with one army," he said, adding that he did not expect any resistance to the move.

Herr Eppelmann also confirmed that investigations were under way to track down Soviet chemical weapons delivered to East Germany. Volkarmee sources had disclosed that the weapons were being stockpiled at bases outside East Berlin.

As the union of the two Germanies progresses, more than 40,000 East Germans are being made unemployed every week as the outdated

economy comes to terms with the currency merger. Lothar de Maizière, the prime minister, said yesterday. He appealed to enterprises to put their workers on half-time shifts before making them redundant.

● BONN: A majority of West Germans want their reunited country to be called simply Deutschland, according to a poll (Jan Murray writes).

The Mannheim electoral research group survey showed 53 per cent preferred the name by itself, 30 per cent favoured the present title, Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany), and 11 per cent opted for Republik Deutschland. Three per cent wanted the old name of Deutsches Reich.

Cubans slow to speak their minds

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN HAVANA

SENSING the changes in Eastern Europe beginning to reach his own shores, President Castro, aged 62, has promised an across-the-board review of his rigid structures and "fossilised rituals", as one leading ideologue put it. "We need to give oxygen to the society," said the party's youth secretary, Roberto Robaina.

What was not up for debate, it was made clear, was Cuba's commitment to socialism and the one-party state. Nor will there be any toying with capitalism or direct election of the president.

To the party's dismay, discussion at grass-roots meetings the first time around confined itself to the usual complaints about the economy and work problems, while the bigger questions it wanted to hear about were largely avoided.

"The people didn't feel confident talking about these issues," a University of Havana professor said. "There is an inhibition so the debate was paralysed."

The mass meetings were suspended in April while the party went back to the drawing board to find ways of persuading the tongue-tied populace to open up. They began again two weeks ago, after a series of internal debates by party-related institutions which received wide coverage on Cuban television. They were designed to give the ordinary folk a better idea of what the government had in mind.

"We are asking people to judge all we have done up to now, and to look to the future to see how we should go on," explained the central committee's ideological secretary, Carlos Aldana.

"We are asking people to be honest... it's fundamental

for us to know what people think." Yet there were strict limits, Señor Aldana conceded. "If people want to talk about bringing capitalism to Cuba, we are not going to pay them any attention," he said.

Alberto Carol, a painter and a leading member of the Cuban Writers and Artists Union, said people were now responding more freely to the party's call. "For example, in the national council of our union there was a very critical discussion of most of the issues set out in the discussion document," he said. "I think people didn't really understand what the party wanted at first."

Soledad Cruz, a columnist for the Communist youth newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*, believes it was not so much fear as habit that stymied the original debate. "What people need here is a sense of participation," she said. "This really is lacking."

Among the ways being examined to broaden participation are increasing the role of Cuba's parliament, the National Assembly of People's Power, an ostensibly elected body whose members are, however, either suggested or approved by the ruling party; and, for the first time, welcoming religious believers into political life.

Reformist elements within the Communist party appear to be anticipating the congress with excitement, and may try to extend the limits of the debate when it sits early next year. Some observers believe the debate may take on a momentum of its own, that the party will find difficult to control. "It could turn into a real Pandora's box for Fidel," said one analyst.

Havana asylum seekers surrender

From AFP IN HAVANA

FIVE Cubans seeking asylum, who had spent a week hiding in a Czechoslovak diplomat's home, surrendered to authorities yesterday.

The four men and a woman, who stormed into the diplomat's house a week ago asking for political asylum, met a Cuban foreign ministry official and were told that they would not be arrested if they left the building, one of the refugees said.

Fourteen other Cubans sought refuge last week at the Czechoslovak embassy, but they voluntarily left the compound in two groups on Friday and Monday.

Another four Cubans have sought refuge in the Italian ambassador's residence and another four in the Spanish embassy. The situation has sparked a deterioration in Havana's relations with Spain and Czechoslovakia.

On Wednesday, Cuba issued a scathing attack on Spain for its statements on the refugee situation, prompting Madrid to recall its ambassador. Yesterday, Spanish officials in Brussels said Spain was suspending economic co-operation with Cuba until a solution was found.

● MADRID: Diplomatic relations between Cuba and Spain were described as "rather cold" by a spokesman at the foreign ministry here yesterday, as the recalled Spanish ambassador returned to Madrid.

Former Stasi agents to get amnesty

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FORMER members of the East German Stasi secret police are likely to be given an amnesty from prosecution, but they will not be allowed to work as counter-espionage agents in a unified Germany, Walter Schauble, the West German interior minister, said yesterday.

Presenting the annual report of the Federal Office for Protection of the Constitution (BfV), the equivalent of MI5, Herr Schauble said that the amnesty would probably be written into the "second state" treaty being drawn up to complete the legal merging of the two countries. It would extend to those agents who had been involved in collecting information, but not to those who might be guilty of human rights abuses.

Information about East German agents collected by the Stasi would not be used, although it would be possible for individuals to consult their files to clear their names and possibly to make damage claims, he said.

The role of the BfV after reunification was still being discussed. Much of its activity has been concentrated on counter-espionage from East Germany and from the old communist bloc. Despite the upheavals and changes in the past year, the office had not noticed any decrease in the amount of spying activity during 1989, although Herr Schauble said that since the beginning of this year there had been a clear change.

In his view, the changed economic relations with these countries would alter both Germany's security interests and the need for them to spy. Although political changes often took a long time to be reflected by the secret services, he was not without hope that the networks set up against West Germany would be wound down as political relations developed.

The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had weakened the orthodox communists and other extreme left-wing groups in West Germany, according to the report. At the same time, there had been a rise in the number of right-wing extremists and associated violence.

The report estimated that there were around 41,000 members of extreme left-wing groups, and about 40,000 at the far right. The left-wingers were more inclined to violence, committing 837 criminal assaults during the year compared with 103 by the right-wing. Of those carried out by the left, 191 were classified as terrorist attacks, including the murder by the Red Army Faction of Alfred Herrhausen, president of the Deutsche Bank. The right-wingers were responsible for racist attacks, setting fire to the homes of asylum seekers and foreigners.

Herr Schauble was not sure what would be done about the East German communist party after reunification. In the past it had acted as mentor to the tiny West German communist party, which was considered too small and disorganised to represent a danger. If it now started to spread its activities in the West, it would be necessary to test whether its programmes and aims were compatible with the democratic basis of the constitution and whether it was working closely with illegal left-wing groups.

The report said that the most violent foreign group working in West Germany was the IRA, which had been responsible for the murder of four people in 1989 around British military establishments. The danger was greatest for soldiers and their dependents.



PRESIDENT Mitterrand, left, and President Cossiga meeting yesterday in Courmayeur, Italy, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Mont Blanc tunnel between France and Italy. They hailed it as a symbol of a Europe without barriers (writes AFP). About 30 environmentalists demonstrated against the increase in traffic through the tunnel and opposing another tunnel. M

Mitterrand said it was possible to reconcile the desires of builders with defenders of the environment. He said new routes through the Alps were indispensable but would take into account ecological factors. "It is a question of European perspective. Europe is our common horizon." He echoed Signor Cossiga's image of the tunnel as a precursor of the barriers which have fallen in Europe.

Moscow eases tension over Arctic build-up

From TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO

A JOINT cup of coffee on the Arctic border between Norway and the Soviet Union appears to have settled an unprecedented series of incidents involving Soviet soldiers and Norwegian fishermen.

The incidents began this month when a Norwegian angler in the salmon-rich Pasvik Valley claimed he had been shot at by Soviet border troops while fishing on the Norwegian side of a body of water known as Lazarus Pond, along the Jakob river.

Subsequently, in separate incidents, three more Norwegian fishermen were briefly detained and the equipment of a fourth was allegedly confiscated by Soviet border patrols.

Objections were lodged, and the Soviet authorities admitted a border violation, while noting that the shots had been fired in the air as warnings. The peace was sealed over a cup of coffee. Nobody is quite sure what the soldiers were doing there.

Despite the presence of an elec-

trified fence in some stretches, the Nordic borders with the Soviet Union have been remarkably peaceful throughout the Cold War. The absence of overt tension has belied concern over a steady build-up of Soviet forces just over the frontier on the Kola peninsula, centred on the port of Murmansk.

Last month it was disclosed that the Soviet Union had for the first time stationed around 40 MiG-27 fighter-bombers, with nuclear capability, on Kola. Per Ditlev-Simonsen, the Norwegian defence minister, told a seminar in Bergen that the squadron had been re-positioned from its former base at Debrecen in Hungary. Its presence in Kola represented "a marked increase of the Soviet Union's offensive capability".

He added: "This highlights Norway's view, expressed in Nato, that... weapons reductions in Central Europe must not lead to a military build-up on the flanks", a phenomenon which others have described as "the sausage effect".

The installations on Kola, which

Nordic defence analysts describe as the largest military complex in the world, are thought to account for at least 50 per cent of the entire Soviet submarine force. Several motorised infantry divisions are based on the peninsula and there are perhaps 20 large airfields.

Satellite photographs and intelligence reports published during the 1980s have identified two strategic nuclear submarine bases, two strategic nuclear bomber bases, two strategic early warning and target acquisition radar complexes, about 70 strategic air defence SAM complexes, one theatre-nuclear missile launch complex, seven main submarine bases, nine bases for surface forces, 22 main airbases with hardened aircraft shelters and runways exceeding 1,600 metres, 18 secondary airfields, and the pre-positioning and deployment infrastructure for a front-level army.

Ironically enough, two years ago the Soviet Union, in a confidence-building operation, invited observers from eight other countries to watch the Baltic fleet in naval manoeuvres in

the Gulf of Finland. It was billed as the first "glassnost manoeuvre" with a view to building towards designating the Baltic as a "sea of peace". Only two Warsaw Pact countries, East Germany and Poland turned up. The other six who had been invited - all five Nordic nations plus West Germany - were conspicuous by their absence.

The Soviet Union complained angrily to the United States and to Nato, whom they blamed for the snub. They reiterated charges that the West seemed intent on building up tensions at sea while disarming, under the INF treaty, on land. Adding insult to injury (and some weight, perhaps to the Soviet grievance) the Danes and West Germans had unofficially sent reconnaissance warships to the region to keep an eye on the 2,500 men, 38 battleships, 22 aircraft, two submarines and four helicopters taking part in the exercise.

Norwegian officials declined to comment on whether pressure might in fact have been brought by Nato to give the exercises a miss.



5-10

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Kuwait hits back at Iraq in letter to Arab League

By HAZR TEMOURIAN

KUWAIT hit back at Iraq yesterday with a letter to the Arab League in Tunis, in which it levelled against Iraq some of the charges that Iraq had laid at its door: occupation of a border region and the illegal exploitation of an oilfield.

The likelihood of war breaking out between the former Gulf war allies was ruled out by local analysts, but Kuwaitis living in Baghdad began to leave in large numbers, while President Saddam Hussein announced the first step of his programme to turn Iraq into a

democracy: he said a new constitution, now in its final drafting stage, would make him president for life.

In its letter, Kuwait not only refuted Iraq's accusations that it had erected military posts and drilled oil wells in Iraqi territory, but also said that for a number of years it had quietly protested to Iraq about the occupation of part of its land by Iraqi forces. In language hitherto reserved for Israel, Kuwait's foreign minister described Iraq's accusations as "distortions of facts". The two countries fought a

border war in 1973 that left a part of their common border undefined. But then Iraq was a feeble military power, while today it is described as the most powerful in the Arab world. Two years after the end of the war with Iran, Iraq maintains 800,000 men under arms, which partly explains its shortage of foreign currency, which is behind its complaints against its richer neighbours.

In an attempt to lower tension, Saudi Arabia broke its nervous silence by announcing that King Fahd had telephoned President Hussein and Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, urging them to show restraint. The United States also issued a statement that it would help maintain "the individual and collective security" of its friends in the region, though some diplomats doubted whether the Iraqi leader, in his present clearly expansionist mood, would take much notice of it for the time being.

The eyes of the Arab world will now be on the next ministerial meeting of Opec in Geneva on Friday. But Baghdad's main charge, of the violation of its land by Kuwait, appears likely to remain a festering wound.

"If I know him well, Saddam will not be satisfied until he has humiliated Kuwait," said a writer on the life history of the Iraqi leader. "And if he is to have another war, he would rather have it now that he is 53 than when he is 63."



Flood victims near Calcutta take to a boat after monsoon-fed rivers swamped thousands of villages, killing 360 and making millions homeless

Rescuers under fire on Shia battlefield

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BEIRUT

RESCUE teams braved artillery shells to pull out 11 bodies yesterday from front lines separating rival Shia gunmen who have been locked in fierce battles for the control of southern Lebanon since Sunday.

More than 45 people have been killed and 152 wounded in this latest round of fighting, pitting the pro-Syrian Amal militia against the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (the Party of God). Their on-off struggle began in April 1988, and has so far been responsible for killing 1,000 people.

Thirteen ambulances and medical vehicles of the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross moved slowly up to the village of Jarjou, 24 miles southeast of Beirut, during a precarious lull. Rescue workers, wearing striking orange outfits and waving Red Cross flags, fanned out for a search, and two hours later returned with 11 bodies. A security source said the dead were all Amal militiamen.

The rescue operation was interrupted when Red Cross teams came under shellfire from Amal artillery. The rescue teams immediately withdrew from the area, leaving behind six bodies.

Setback for Cambodia peace plan

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN SYDNEY

JAMES Baker's statement in Paris on Wednesday that the United States will no longer recognise the Cambodia tripartite coalition, or its presence at the United Nations, has dealt a serious blow to the Australian peace plan for

policy was to prevent the Khmer Rouge regaining power in Cambodia and would not affect its support to the resistance coalition's two non-communist factions (led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann, the former prime minister). Mr Baker's announcement is bound to weaken the latter politically.

The Australian peace initiative depends on these factions remaining strong, to force the Vietnamese-backed Phnom

Penh government towards a solution to the 11-year impasse.

The Australian plan, first floated by the minister for foreign affairs and trade, Gareth Evans, after the Vietnamese withdrew from Cambodia last year, proposed similar measures to those implemented in Namibia. A peacekeeping force was to be sent to Cambodia for between six months and a year, while the country prepared for free

elections monitored by a UN delegation.

Mr Evans's ideas were deemed unrealistic by the US almost from the start. It was thought that Cambodia was too much in flux for the plan to succeed, and there were misgivings about the UN's ability to manage the military, administrative and political structures needed by the initiative. The cost of the operation, estimated at more than US \$1 billion (£550 million), was another factor.

Mr Baker's Paris proposals are simpler and cheaper, relying on the promise of talks, and possible economic aid, to encourage Vietnam to use its influence in shifting Phnom Penh towards free elections.

Mr Evans, who has made his Cambodian peace plan something of a showpiece of Australian foreign policy, must be seen as having suffered a rebuff at the change in American policy.

This comes at a time when the Cambodian problem is again becoming a sensitive political issue for the Labor government. Recent media reports have warned of a fresh influx of Cambodian boat people into Australia, and the opposition has emphasised that, without a Cambodian settlement, there will be little chance of an end to the refugee problem. It now seems unlikely that it will be a Labor initiative that will bring about this settlement.

Leading article, page 15

Hopes fade for quake victims

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN MANILA

AS THE death toll in Monday's earthquake rose to more than 600, American, British and Japanese teams continued to search for the dozens of people still trapped under collapsed buildings, although hopes of bringing them out alive are fading.

The extent of the damage is extensive. Governors and mayors in small towns have now pleaded for help, saying there are no rescue operations in their area.

Red Cross and civil defence officials said about 1,000 people were injured and about 100,000 left homeless. A group of 16 British experts have been working on the site of the collapsed Philippine Christian College in Cebu, the quake's epicentre.

The team, led by Guy McCurley, also flew to Baguio City, the hardest hit in the earthquake. The United States has sent a 20-man relief team and Japan has sent a 26-strong search group, with sniffer dogs.

Messages of sympathy and pledges of help continue to arrive. Britain said it was turning over \$35,000-worth of medicines to the Philippine Red Cross and Tokyo said it would give \$300,000 to victims and survivors.

Sagan sues over puppet portrayal

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCOISE Sagan's life and times have encompassed more than a few bruising encounters with alcohol, drugs, gambling and the French tax authorities. To her credit, the distinguished author and playwright has usually taken them on the chin without complaint, even when fellow intellectuals are rallying to her cause.

But enough is enough, and Sagan has just announced that she is taking a cable television network, Canal Plus, to court for "an intolerable attack on her image, her name and her personality". The case arises from the puppet that represents her on a popular satirical show called *Nulle Part Ailleurs* (Nowhere else but here) which is transmitted at peak viewing time and can usually be received by non-subscribers.

According to Sagan's lawyer, she is depicted as an dishevelled old bat, butting in on every conversation, wild-eyed and gesticulating. What's more, he maintains, the puppet's appearance is "bestial" and its voice comes across in a sort of belly-rumble that requires translation in subtitles.

Hurtful stuff, and all the more so, perhaps, because Sagan was unsuccessful in an action a couple of years ago to get the puppet banished from French screens. On that occasion, she did at least secure the agreement of Canal Plus to drop sequences linking her to drug-taking, on the grounds

that she was then awaiting prosecution for possession of cocaine.

Last March, Sagan was convicted of the charges, receiving a six-month suspended jail sentence and a fine of £45,000. One of her complaints against Canal Plus now is that the Sagan puppet is frequently shown with a runny nose, a common side-effect of cocaine use.

Although the case will not be heard until after France's invariable long summer holiday, the self-appointed cultural elite of Paris are already taking sides. Should Sagan have risen above this rude assault, demonstrating that the most creative and sensitive souls do not lack a sense of humour, or is she striking a valiant blow against the barbarians on behalf of intellectuals (a full-time profession here)?

We are talking of a community which scrambled to sign a petition supporting Sagan after she was accused of those cocaine offences. "Charge us too!" declared an array of writers, poets, actors and hangers-on in an open letter to the authorities, acknowledging that they had also indulged: others who had not been offered the chance to sign complained bitterly to the organisers of the petition.

At Canal Plus, straight bat was the order of the day: "Some people find our caricatures funny, others don't." They point out that Sagan is the only person to resort to law after being put through the wringer on *Nulle Part Ailleurs*, where government ministers and prominent politicians, newsmen, showbusiness figures and captains of industry are lampooned without mercy.

If Sagan has her way, the case could cost the show 1.5 million francs (about £150,000) for "gratuitous soiling" of her image: whether eventual success in court would encourage others who take similar exception to their puppets remains to be seen.



Sagan objects to "soiling" of her image on TV show



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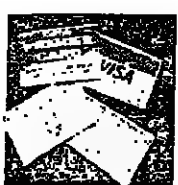
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UN seeks leader to end divisions in drug campaign

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, in Vienna

DIVISIONS within the main United Nations drug agencies have been spotlighted in a confidential report calling for an internationally known figure to lead the world fight against drugs.

Several governments, including that of Britain, are concerned that rivalries among UN officials, and disputes over who does what, are making the UN bodies less effective than they should be. Fifteen experts, including a former British ambassador, will meet in Vienna on Monday to complete a report recommending important changes. It will be used by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, to make recommendations for the General Assembly, which is expected to order a re-organisation.

The main bodies are the Economic and Social Council, responsible for policy, which is the parent body of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, an inter-governmental expert group meeting once a year to examine the work of the Division of Narcotic

Drugs, which acts as the secretariat of the commission. The International Narcotics Control Board, a quasi-judicial body which monitors compliance with drug treaties and of trade and production of legal and illegal drugs, and in turn has a secretariat of 21 technical experts.

A draft of the report, circulating in Vienna, proposes that all UN anti-drugs activities should come under one internationally-known leader.

Margaret Anstee, the UN drugs co-ordinator and head of the UN office in Vienna, supports the plan as a long-term goal, but wants it introduced slowly. She fears that rapid change could disrupt agencies which she considers are working well, and says the real problem is under-funding. Asked if she would be a candidate for the new post, she said that was premature.

Giuseppe di Gennaro, director of the UN fund for drug abuse control, strongly supported the proposals, attacked what he said was the bureaucratic approach of the UN, said there were too many seminars and not enough action, and hoped to be a candidate for the new post.

Abdelaziz Bahl, secretary of the International Narcotics Control Board, feared he would no longer be able to report directly to his board. He claimed that empire-building by certain unnamed persons, lay behind the plan.

The British government is among those most concerned. Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, gave a veiled hint in an interview that Britain's future contributions could be in question if matters did not improve.

In a speech last month she called for "an end to bickering over rival claims of competence (between different UN agencies) ... an end to empire building throughout the UN system".

Miss Anstee, aged 64, an Englishwoman with 38 years' service, wants to conserve and improve the present system. Signor di Gennaro, aged 66, a doughty Neapolitan lawyer with an iconoclastic approach, wants radical changes. They work in offices only yards apart on the fourth floor of the UN complex. But while their relationship is outwardly cordial, senior sources say there are strains.

Signor di Gennaro is the most effective fund-raiser in the UN drugs system. His budget has risen from \$5 million (£2.8 million) to \$70 million.

Since 1982, because governments liked his approach of spending money on action programmes rather than research. After a career fighting the Mafia as a prosecutor and judge, he has little patience with UN life and sees himself as an outsider.

The row over co-ordination between the different agencies stems partly from his view that it is a distraction from the main job. "Co-ordination is one of those tremendous disruptive expressions," he said.

It was something nobody could oppose, but often meant something else. "What we have here is a lack of action (by the UN bodies). I would like very much to be in a situation where a lack of co-ordination was the problem."

When Miss Anstee was appointed drugs co-ordinator three years ago, part of her remit was to persuade Signor di Gennaro to work more closely with other agencies. She had some success, but has had no power to tell him what to do. One of the anomalies is that the co-ordinator has limited powers over only two of the main agencies.

Signor di Gennaro said the real problem lay in the bureaucratic traditions of the UN. "There is a natural trend to address more attention to procedures than goals. The real goal of the organisation becomes the procedures."

When the UN was asked to take action, its usual response was to set up a committee, hold a seminar and order more research and training. These, he said, were diversions. He questioned the value of more and more statistics when everyone knew there was a problem to be tackled.

Miss Anstee agreed, but said the demand came from governments, not UN officials. Whenever the general assembly was unable to agree, it asked the secretary-general to write another report.

A further criticism made of Signor di Gennaro's agency and of the Division of Narcotic Drugs (one of the two agencies over which Miss Anstee has some powers) is that they overlap. Western diplomatic sources said there was duplication of the work to reduce demand for drugs, and of research and technical services. The agencies also failed to share their support services fully. Miss Anstee acknowledged some duplication but both she and Signor di Gennaro felt it was not the main problem.



Heritage guardian: a Mohawk warrior taking a break during the 10-day-old road and bridge blockade set up by Indians challenging the Quebec authorities over a new golf course which they claim would encroach on sacred burial grounds

Amazon killing turns Hollywood spotlight on rainforest's plight

From Louise Byrne in Rio de Janeiro

AFTER nearly 18 months' wrangling over the story rights, bought for more than £1 million, David Puttnam, the British director, is to make a film about Chico Mendes, the Brazilian ecologist murdered two years ago by people opposed to his battle to save the Amazon rainforest.

Puttnam will produce the film with Warner Bros and the Brazilian JN Filmes. Shooting starts next month of scenes of the controversial fires, used in the so-called "slash-and-burn" system to clear tropical rainforest for agriculture, a technique that can severely impoverish the soil in the long term.

The murder of Mendes, a

rubber tapper and union leader, in December 1988, and extensive burning in the Amazon forests that year, provoked an international outcry and heightened pressure on Brazil to improve its environmental record. At a time of growing world concern for the environment, the film is expected to become a box-office hit.

The men accused of ordering and carrying out Mendes's murder are still awaiting trial. A ranch owner, Daril Alves da Silva, is charged with ordering the murder. His son, Darci, and a ranch-hand are charged with carrying it out. Last month Darci and his brother, Olozi, were sentenced to 12

years in prison for attempted murder after an incident in 1988 when they shot at a group of rubber tappers, wounding two.

Soon after Mendes's death, his home town of Xapuri, in the southwestern corner of Amazonia, was flooded by people from Hollywood's big production companies. They tried to persuade the local rubber tapper community and Mendes's widow, Izamar, to accept their bid for the potential blockbuster. A poor town, Xapuri was suddenly swimming in talk of big money.

Among the bidders were Robert Redford with 20th Century Fox, Britain's Goldcrest, and the Guber-Peters Corporation, which produced *Batman and Rain Man*.

A local committee was set up to discuss the bids and how the money would be distributed. But negotiations ended when Senhora Mendes travelled to Rio de Janeiro to sign a contract with JN Filmes. She and her two young children were apportioned 30 per cent of the £1 million-plus contract and the Chico Mendes Foundation, founded in Xapuri to continue the ecologist's work, 70 per cent.

There were squabbles over the money. Eunice Feitosa, who claimed to be Mendes's first wife, demanded a share of the takings. She and her daughter, aged 20, whose father was said to be the ecologist, were eventually paid \$25,000 (£13,800) by JN Filmes.

The plot thickened. JN Filmes signed up with Guber-Peters and Guber-Peters signed up with Warner Bros.

Then in April this year Sony bought Columbia Pictures and

also took Guber-Peters and their projects into the fold. Warner Bros disapproved and managed to keep the rights to the film. They also signed up Puttnam, who made *Chariots of Fire*, *The Killing Fields* and *The Mission*, as producer of the Mendes saga, budgeted at £12 million.

The second chapter in the making of the film may be over, but a new one has begun. The search has started to find the actor who will play Mendes, a thickset man with large kind eyes and a full moustache. Robert de Niro and Dustin Hoffman are thought to have been ruled out. Puttnam is said to be looking for an actor, big name or not, who resembles Mendes. A Brazilian actress with near-perfect English is being sought to play Izamar.

Joffe Rodrigues, executive director of JN Filmes, realises the importance of what is probably the most significant film to be made in Brazil. "The film will move even those who have not been concerned with preservation of the Amazon until now," he said, adding that it would contain many details about Mendes not generally known.

Filming is to take place in the northern Amazon state of Para, Rio de Janeiro and Mendes's home state of Acre. Plans to shoot scenes in Mendes's home town, however, have not been confirmed. Some rubber-tapper leaders in the town claim the 80-strong film crew will increase inflation and change the community for ever. But much of the 20,000 population apparently cannot wait for Hollywood to come visting.

Italy leads Middle East initiative

BRUSSELS — Italy will lead a EC delegation to Israel and Tunis next week in a fresh attempt to resolve the Middle East impasse. It will also lead a mission to Albania in September (Michael Binyon writes).

The initiatives highlight Italy's determination to play a key role as president of the EC. The Middle East mission is the first serious EC attempt to play a role in the region in 10 years. It will include foreign ministers from Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg.

Publisher dies

PARIS — Georges Dargaud, who launched the popular *Tintin* magazine and *Asterix* comic-book series, has died of a long illness at 79. (AP)

Church uproar

SAN FRANCISCO — Two Lutheran congregations have been suspended after they ordained a gay man and two lesbians as ministers. (Reuters)

Panda power

PEKING — China's ren-panda diplomacy is to continue despite appeals to stop sending them to zoos around the world. (Reuters)

Eclipse fever

HELSINKI — Astronomers are gathering here for a fleeting glimpse on Sunday of Europe's first total eclipse of the sun since 1981. (Reuters)

Women soldiers

ROME — The Italian military, one of the last all-male forces in Europe, is to allow women to join up. (Reuters)

Airline dispute

PARIS — France's main domestic airline, Air Inter, has cancelled 25 per cent of its flights today and tomorrow because of a scheduled pay strike. (AP)

'Thief' sues

PATRIS — Christian Holland, a West German, has sued himself for stealing his own parcel to protest against the slack Greek post office. (Reuters)

De Beers' priceless pit loses its sparkle

From Gavin Bell in Johannesburg

DIAMONDS may be for ever, but the mines which produce them are not. One of the most historic sources of top quality gemstones, which secured a fortune for Cecil Rhodes and made the name De Beers an international symbol of affluence, is running out of "sparklers".

After more than a century of production, the De Beers diamond mine at Kimberley is to cease underground production in October. Treatment of surface reserves will continue until next year, but in effect the mine has reached the end of its economic life.

"It is a fact of life that our products last longer than said mines," a spokesman said. "Happily, we have three other mines in the area still in full production. This is not the end of Kimberley."

The unceremonious demise of the De Beers mine will be in sharp contrast with its discovery and development. The story began in 1869 when the two brothers, Arnoldus and Johannes De Beers, bought a

farm in the Orange Free State for £50. Besieged by diamond miners, they sold it to claimholders 11 years later for the princely sum of £6,300.

At this point Rhodes entered the scene, buying up all the claims, and in 1888 he paid £5.38 million for adjacent mines. These were the rumbustious days when miners converted an ancient pipe of lava into the deepest man-made hole in the world, lit their cigars with banknotes and bathed their women in champagne.

Richard Southey, colonial secretary of the Cape, observed: "This diamond is the rock upon which the future success of South Africa will be built." As far as the original De Beers mine was concerned, he was right.

Ceasing operations only during the recession of 1908 and the second world war, it produced a glittering stream of diamonds. The total haul is estimated at 23 million carats, or 4.6 tons, worth around £1 billion at present prices.

Misfortunes of war cast a dark spell over Liberia

MONROVIA NOTEBOOK by Jamie Dettmer

A lot of work is going to confront Western missionaries when they return to Nimba County, the homeland of Liberia's Gio tribe. Many of the missions have been taken over by the rebels. In Tapeta, both the Roman Catholic and Baptist missions are quickly falling into disrepair. The nocturnal habits of the rebels and their camp followers, in bedrooms accustomed to more elevated and reflective activity, would not be to the liking of the former occupants.

The missionaries may also find when they resume their pastoral duties that there has been a general falling away from the path of Christian belief. Animist and voodoo cults are on the resurgence in Liberia. Every soldier and rebel possesses some juju or other. Sometimes, it is just a piece of string. On other occasions, bits of human anatomy can be seen hanging around the necks of the combatants. "Proofing" is also much in vogue: this involves a witchdoctor casting a spell that gives protection, or providing a magic balm. The brother of one of the rebel battalion commanders tried to persuade me to get myself

"I'm already 100% proofed."



"proofed". "If you do, no bullet will enter your body," he said.

The six-month civil war has been a godsend for the ramshackle Ivory Coast border town of Danané. The trickle of business normally enjoyed by the town, which is located a few miles from the only open, official crossing with Liberia, has turned into a flood after the appearance of journalists, international relief organisations, refugees and rebels.

The normal motley crew who attend international disasters arrived in force, and the dollar signs are ringing up in the eyes of the hoteliers and market stallholders who, despite belonging to the same Gio tribe as the refugees, are not past squeezing every cent they can out of their brothers and sisters from Liberia. Prices have rocketed and the range of goods normally on sale in this shabby town has widened. The latest American videos are on sale, many of them destined to be smuggled through the border to rebel leaders based in the Liberian city of Buchanan.

M Everest must be one of the richest men in Danané now. He is the main rebel contact man in the town and is charging journalists up to \$1,000 (£555) to arrange safe passage to territory held by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia. The inside of his house in a side-street near the police headquarters, with which he enjoys a cosy relationship, is stuffed with expensive goods, including a state-of-the-art hi-fi system, top-range cameras and an excellent video recorder. A few paces away, a small camp of refugees stare at the comings and goings outside M

Everest's house. They stir apathetically the contents of a small cooking pot which contains a miserable portion of rice and water.

Shaking hands in Liberia is an exhausting business. It involves rather a lot of digital dexterity. First, you grip each other's hands in the normal fashion and participate in a few shakes. Then, you move your hands to clasp thumbs. The final stage returns you to the handshake position. You then press the little fingers together, followed by the third fingers and then the second fingers. The pressing of the second fingers is the real art of the thing because you snap them together to make a clicking sound. The louder the click, the happier people are. Women generally do not go in for the whole time-consuming business. They do a normal but lingering handshake.

The most frequent question asked by any rebel of a foreigner in Liberia today is "You have a gift for me?" Often, a sinister leer accompanies the question. There is also much tinkering

around with the AK47. A "gift" is normally a cigarette or a few US dollars. A good gift will result in being quickly waved through the rebel checkpoints on the dirt tracks outside villages in Nimba County and Grand Bassa County. Many of the rebels, though, are raw, uneducated recruits who have hardly ever been outside their own villages. This can cause problems. One rebel was furious with me when I passed five greenbacks to him. "What's this man?" he said. "I want dollars."

Ignorant though some of the rebels may be about what a US dollar looks like, they know Californian beach style when they see it. The bright, colourful shorts in favour in the land of the free are also much sought after in Liberia. The appearance of an average rebel soldier is thus quite extraordinary: beach shorts, juju, captured army helmet and trendy, T-shirt. Many of the rebels are very young. Entering Liberia from Danané, one of the first soldiers to question me was a tiny boy who could not have been even in his teens. He clutched a pistol. I breathed a huge sigh of relief when I saw that the safety catch was on.

Managua tussle over hearts and minds of pupils

From A Correspondent in Managua

THE government of President Chamorro and the Sandinista opposition are doing ideological battle over the minds — some would say souls — of Nicaragua's children. The battle goes to the heart of the tension between revolutionary ideals still widely held, and new conservative policies, and the dispute is fierce because the prize is seen as nothing less than the nation's youth.

On one side, new education ministry officials are trying to clear classrooms of nearly 11 years of left-wing revolutionary teaching and replace it with what they widely term "a Christian education". On the other, most of the country's 36,000 teachers are pro-Sandinista and vow to resist changes, and continue "humanist, scientific instruction".

The struggle emerged as Sandinistas celebrated the eleventh anniversary on July 19 of the overthrow of Anastasio Somoza. Although Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista leader, lost the February elections to Señora Chamorro, Sandinistas have been true to their pledge to continue "governing from below" by mobilising public support and a party network to frustrate her designs with strikes and other protests.

"Some schools are in open rebellion," Sofonías Cisneros, the education minister, lamented. "The police won't go in to take down Sandinista flags because they are supporting their side."

But the ministry is moving on other fronts. New primary school reading textbooks are to be delivered on Monday.

The current texts, called *Carlitos* after Carlos Fonseca, the Sandinista founder, exposed even the smallest children to heavy doses of militarism. A *Carlitos* for primary children shows the Sandinista flag beside the national banner, teaches some letters of the alphabet with words of war ("G for guerrilla") and contains poems such as *Ode To Our Frontier Guards*.

Guillermo Martínez, secretary-general of the pro-Sandinista teachers' union, defended the texts because they were used when the country was defending itself from US-backed contra rebels. By last year, Señor Martínez said, the union had decided to revise the books. But the government, he said, was moving dangerously fast.

Tension in some schools is being fed by bitterness between teachers with different views. Señor Martínez, for instance, resents pro-government teachers who want to remove commemorative "patriotic corners" in schools for about 150 teachers killed by contras during the war.

On the other hand, Mario Casco, secretary-general of the pro-government teachers' union, enjoys close ties with the ministry after years of organising clandestinely against the Sandinistas' union and three arrests for "reactionary" activities.

During a break at a recent meeting, Señor Casco and other like-minded teachers laughed with glee when they read that a librarian in the city of León made a bonfire of literary works by Sandinista authors. "They call it an incineration, but those kinds of books should be burnt," Señor Casco said. "They are poisonous."

Deeper than flags and books, teachers and officials differ fundamentally about what education should produce. Most controversial is the perceived influence of Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. Señor Cisneros is widely believed to have been appointed by President Chamorro at the cardinal's suggestion. Señor Cisneros is not a professional educator, and is best known as the Catholic leader of a parents' association who fought Sandinista policies.

Humberto Belli, the deputy minister, is considered a close associate of the cardinal. During the Reagan administration in the US, Señor Belli worked for the US conservative group, the Institute on Religion and Democracy.

"We don't teach religion, but we do want to impart the Christian values which have constructed Western civilisation," Señor Cisneros said.

Some effects of the Christian or Catholic point of view may materialise quickly. Catholics, for instance, are vehemently opposed to abortion, which is legal in Nicaragua. "We cannot destroy a fetus, a human life," said Eitelma Martínez, a pre-school teacher, at a meeting of pro-government teachers.

Some Sandinista teachers worry over Catholic emphasis on marriage as an institution in a country where some 75 per cent of children are born to women who are not properly married. And they say that if sex education is allowed to continue, it will only be as a preparation for marriage.

"These attitudes simply clash with the realities in our country, and leave children feeling marginalised and confused," Guillermo Martínez said. "Our people are highly religious, but we should not be at the service of the Catholic religion."

Antidotes to bardolatry

Philip Howard

Here is summer half gone, and I have not managed to get to Shakespeare in the Park yet, let alone Stratford. You cannot endure an English summer properly without Shakespeare. My grandmaman, though seriously Greek, knew this well enough, and used to take us to Stratford as soon as we could walk, in spite of alarm and alarms in the rest of the family that the plays might not be entirely suitable. One of my earliest memories is of not understanding a lot of what was going on in *Cymbeline*, but knowing that it was a brave new world. I know not, sir, whether Bacon wrote the words of Shakespeare, but if he did not it seems to me he missed the opportunity of his life.

The Shakespeare cult is at high tide, what with the rediscovery of the foundations of the theatres, and Sam Wanamaker's magnificent obsession on the South Bank, as well as the Royal Shakespeare Company and amateur productions in college gardens and village halls. One tendency these days is for authenticity, to get back to what it was really like for Elizabethan and Jacobean audiences. This fits in with another popular pursuit: re-experiencing the past by Pevsnerian around churches and stately homes. If I do manage to make it to Stratford, I have no doubt that I shall be trampled by wild herds of snapping American and Japanese trippers doing it in half a day.

Of course we cannot recapture the past, precisely because it has passed. But I hope that at least some of the scanty anecdotes about Shakespeare are true. I hope he played the ghost in *Hamlet*. It is a foul slur to suggest that this implies that he was not much of an actor. The ghost is a demanding part with some good lines. I speak with authority, as a member of the ghost-busters union who fell off the battlements in School Hall with fearful clatter, in theory starting like a guilty thing upon a fearful summons, in fact giggling with surprise at the volume and scratchiness of the recording of the crowing of the cock. I hope that Queen Elizabeth fell at his feet when Shakespeare was acting a king, to see whether it would distract him, and that he did not falter for a split second, but ad-libbed to the end of the stage courtesies. "Take up our sister's handkerchief!" This fits with our stereotypes of Elizabeth as cocky, and so is almost certainly untrue. I guess it is stage lore. I am certain that as soon as you write anything about Shakespeare, you are doomed to receive letters from fanatics and nutters arguing with passion that the plays were written not by Shakespeare, but by somebody else with the same name.

The Shakespeare anecdote that rings true to me is of how, when he acted as godfather to one of Ben Jonson's children, he stood after the christening sunk in the sessions of sweet silent thought. Jonson asked what was the matter: Shakespeare replied that he had been pondering what to give the child as a present, but now he had made up his mind: "I'll give him a dozen good latten spoons and thou shalt translate them." (Latten was a cheap yellow metal, like brass, which was commonly used for household utensils in the 16th and 17th centuries.) I think that Shakespeare rather than an anecdotal bardolatry might have made a dreadful pun, and might have been coarse enough to boast about his lack of Latin. We can think what we want about Shakespeare, because we know so little. But I think it is important to remember that, among many other things, he was a professional hack working under the lash to meet horrendous deadlines, and then having his piece held over at the last minute by idiot producers.

In the quest for the real Shakespeare, we are just starting to get back to the Globe acting editions, in texts from the quirky quartos or the First Folio, which are as close as we can get to what he wrote for the company in his own theatre, without the bright alterations made by four centuries of editors. I have seen *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in looseleaf notebook with ring clips, with a prompt script and part scripts for each character, a working edition for serious actors and students. It takes us closer to the original theatrical practices for which Shakespeare wrote than any other modern edition.

And it reminds us what a hasty, busy, business it was. The Shakespearean repertory system was as frantic as producing a weekly colour magazine. They mounted a different play every afternoon, six days a week, staging as many as 30 different plays a year — many of them continuously updated, improved and improvised — and never repeated even the most popular play more than four or five times in one month. The actors (and the playwrights) had far less time for rehearsal, perfectionism, and primadonnaism than their modern successors. Those original scripts are an antidote to dim bardolatry, which takes a man of the earth and pretends he was the Archangel Gabriel.

You should always take your Shakespeare with a spot of irreverence. He too believed in irreverence. "I don't know if you ever came across a play of Shakespeare's called *Macbeth*? If you did, you may remember this bird Macbeth bumps off another bird named Banquo and gives a big dinner to celebrate, and picture his embarrassment when about the first of the gay throng to turn up is Banquo's ghost, all merry and bright, covered in blood. It gave him a pretty nasty start. Shakespeare does not attempt to conceal." The man who made that grisly pun about Latin spoons would have enjoyed that.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

While I yield to no one in my admiration either for the medical science or for the industries which convert its unforgiving research into tubes, pills, tins, jars, boxes and bubble-packs, there is no question but that their insistence on constant breakthroughs makes the prospect of each succeeding holiday exponentially glum. Between your last trip and your next, they will invariably have come up with something new, and you will not only have to take it with you, you will have to confront the prospect of the suffering which will require you to unscrew it.

Once upon a time, and not so long ago at that, the travelling Briton was quite prepared to enter abroad with nothing more prophylactic than a stout walking-stick and a red-spotted bandanna. It was all there was. Finding himself, say, in a noxious spot where the natives were dropping like flies, not to say because of them, the Briton would use the stick both to fend off anybody who might be falling towards him and to negotiate his passage over those who had already fallen, while holding the bandanna over his face to filter whatever it was that was felling them.

Alternatively, were he to sustain a fracture, it would be the matter of a moment to snap the stick into splints and convert the bandanna into a sling, or, in the event of a gash from tusk or kris, a tourniquet. He would then press on regardless, while things healed. The better sticks were hollow and contained whisky, but this was his only medicinal concession, reserved for that occasional moment when he contracted something from, say, a dodgy Ganges oyster or a suppurating Baluchi he might have inadvertently rubbed up against in the camel-queue, and had to go and lie down until the fever broke.

He did not let this spoil his holiday: even more important, he did not let its possibility spoil his anticipation of his holiday. Since there was nothing he could do about anything, there was no point worrying. That he might catch malaria while pottering the alien bogs did not

cross his mind. Until, that is, word got out about quinine. He then began to fret. He felt he ought to take precautions. He bought a bottle.

I have just got back from the pharmacist. I have 19 packets. I have plasters, and anti-histamine, and sodium hypochlorite, and Iomitol, and codeine, and flagyl, and pseudophedrine, and chlorimazole, and chloramphenicol, and dextropropoxyphene, and benzocaine, and achromycin, and diethyltolamide, and some of them you swallow, and some you smear on, and some you spray, and some you inhale, and I am only going to France. The last time I went, I had a mere 17 packets, but today the pharmacist said that there was a lot of something or other about and there were these new things on the market, so I bought them. He also enquired whether I had considered taking a plasma pack, since you couldn't trust foreign blood transfusions these days, and I thought, oh good, something new to worry about. I wonder if he's got any off-the-peg artificial hips. I bet French orthopaedics is a bit iffy, but I was up to thirty quid already.

All very sad. I am not a hypochondriac, and for the rest of the year I wait for something to go wrong before researching a cure, but here I am, forced to contemplate the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to, and, even worse, gloomily wondering if there's a 1001st I may have missed, suppose I got beriberi, suppose a goutre came up, or a wen, suppose I woke up dead, would it be smart to get something for it now, rather than face some ghastly Gallic quack in a wine-stained goatee advancing upon me with a fistful of mildewed suppositories?

But at which point to stop? I ask only because of a handy tip from Moyra Bremner which I have just spotted in *The Daily Telegraph*: "If a sea-urchin spine becomes embedded in your skin while bathing, bandage a paw-paw or pineapple over it. The fruit's enzymes open the skin, making removal easy."

Pity I didn't notice it earlier. The greengrocer's is bang next door to the chemist's.

Conor Cruise O'Brien explains why the habits of Germans and others must be watched

Taking stock of national character

Is there such a thing as national character? Nicholas Ridley assumes that there is, and those academics who briefed the prime minister about the Germans seem to have shared the assumption, without reaching the same conclusions. On the other hand, the German deputy foreign minister, Ingrid Adam-Schwartz, interviewed on Channel 4, calmly denied the existence of national character. She spoke with the confidence of one who knows she is expressing a view shared by most of her acquaintances.

I found that a little odd. Whether national character exists or not, there is certainly a widespread assumption that it does. This shows in mildly hostile stereotypes of other nations. Thus if a group of French scholars were to advise President Mitterrand about the English character — not very likely — "hypocrisy" would figure on the list, just as "cynicism" would figure on an English list about the French.

French and English perceptions of each other have been relatively stable during (say) the past three centuries. Perceptions of German national character, on the other hand, have fluctuated bewilderingly. In the first half of the 19th century, Germans — or most Germans — were thought of as exceptionally peace-loving, which is why Balzac, in describing a German acquaintance, could say that "he was the image of that pure and noble Germania whose peaceable customs have never denied themselves even under seven invasions". Those were French invasions, of course.

It should be noted, however, that Balzac was alluding to a Germany, not to all Germany. Nobody has ever ascribed "peaceable customs" to the Prussians. By the last quarter of the 19th century, Prussia was imposing its stamp — the root-word for "character" — on the rest of Germany. Balzac's assessment would become incomprehensible to his compatriots by the end of the century. And the mood of the Prussian-moulded Second Reich communicated itself, under the quaking surface of the Weimar republic, to the emerging Third Reich. It was only after defeat in the second world war that the "peaceable moeurs" admired by Balzac flowered once again in the federal republic.

It is understandable that the

notion of national character is now unattractive to Germans, for it implies continuity, and understandably — and healthily — post-war Germans are more attracted to the idea of discontinuity. Yet it remains true that there is a German national character, made up of marked specific characteristics. More than other Europeans, Germans are hard-working, inventive, thrifty, painstaking in craftsmanship, punctilious about details and schedules, industrially co-operative and entrepreneurially gifted. These are the "habits" to which Mr Ridley alluded. His aversion appears to be caused not by the habits themselves — all intrinsically admirable — but by their having put Germany ahead.

National characters — clusters of characteristics — endure over long periods. But changing circumstances, particular stresses and opportunities, can bring different components of a cluster into salience. To be domineering is undoubtedly a component in the German character. The same is true of the American, English and French characters, but it is the domineering component in the German character which should preoccupy Europeans at the

present time, because the domineering component is made more formidable by its association with those other habits which have put Germany ahead. Putting it another way, Germany has more to dominate with. And the people who are liable to be domineered over, if that component again gets out of hand, are the rest of us Europeans.

Of necessity, the domineering component in Germany disappeared from view in 1945. There followed the Bonn era of "peaceable moeurs". But a new era is opening in which a unified Germany, with its capital in Berlin, will enjoy economic and financial hegemony in Europe.

Many commentators are suggesting that a Germany united under Bonn's auspices will be the familiar, reassuring federal republic writ large. These commentators believe that the old domineering tendency in the German character has permanently disappeared. Where domineering is concerned, they argue, modern Germany is a burnt-out case.

Perhaps. But it would be unwise to assume that the unified Germany will be, in all its international relations, simply a

continuation of the federal republic. Bonn has habitually been deferential and verged on the apologetic in its demeanour towards its Western allies. It is unlikely that the united Germany will exhibit those characteristics. In the explosion of national pride that must accompany reunification, the old deferential posture will be felt to be unworthy of the newly arisen Fatherland. And from abandoning a deferential posture to assuming a domineering one is a short step.

The German national character is no worse than those of other nations; indeed, in many ways it is better (if we agree to treat the 42 years of the Third Reich as an absolute aberration). But the ways in which it is better make it exceptionally dangerous when its domineering tendency gets out of hand.

For these reasons, I think Mrs Thatcher is right to hold on to as much political sovereignty as possible, within an economically united Europe. And the French will come round to her point of view, once they find that the German "horse" is no longer as responsive to its French "rider" as it was in the good old days of Bonn.

Broadcasting House fiddles while the Proms go begging

The season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts that begins tonight may be the last in a long and honourable tradition. Since 1927, the Proms have had but one paymaster: the BBC. That 63-year rule has been a dictatorship, but a benign and altruistic one. A succession of visionary BBC music controllers has stimulated, shaped and nurtured musical taste, bringing it to a level of sophistication which few in pre-war Britain would have dreamt possible.

By next year, however, the Proms may be up for sale. Not in so many words, of course: the BBC will continue to insist that it is retaining full artistic control, even if business sponsors are invited to pay some of the bills. Nevertheless, the reality is that the Proms will be joining the growing procession of great British institutions — from Test cricket and the Boat Race to Covent Garden and the Royal Shakespeare Company — that owe their continuing existence to their ability to offer, in effect, upmarket advertising hoardings to industry. In that respect, the Proms have one great advantage: every concert is broadcast live, and many are televised.

There is no reason for alarm about businessmen trying to alter the Proms' unique programming mix of first-rank performers and young, enthusiastic audiences. Business sponsors of the arts, almost by definition, are not philistines. Most are extremely discerning. Crude interference in artistic matters is rare, provided the artistic partner delivers what is expected. (Whether artists are playing their proper part in society if they deliver only what is expected is a separate issue.) And to their credit, business sponsors have never attempted to hide the fact that they support the arts as a commercial proposition. Money is given in return for prestige, reflected glory and a supposedly caring or enlightened image.

Unfortunately, the BBC's motive for putting the Proms up for sponsorship is rather murkier. At the heart of the matter lies the future of a concert series, however famous, but a marked division within the BBC about the nature of its public-broadcasting duty. The Proms, along with Radio 3 and the collection of BBC orchestras spread around London and the regions, represent perhaps the last vestiges of the lofty Reithian tradition. They were established in an era when the BBC had confidence in itself as the nation's cultural pacesetter. They now have to survive in a BBC which is chiefly exercised by the pursuit of audience ratings, television newsreaders, game shows and soaps.

Even if the current BBC management were still committed to leading our cultural life, it would be hampered by past mismanagement of musical resources. A modern broadcasting organisation does not need half a dozen full-size orchestras. The London-based BBC Symphony Orchestra competes pointlessly through its



Richard Morrison argues that the BBC is sacrificing a great artistic asset to support an orchestral empire nobody needs

winter season in the Barbican and Festival Hall with four independent London orchestras, all of which usually deliver a great deal more bang for the concert-goer's buck. Similarly, in Manchester the BBC Philharmonic competes for audience loyalty with the Hallé, and in Glasgow the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra competes with the Scottish National Orchestra. Only the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra (which is partly financed by the BBC) are serving regions where there would otherwise be no regular professional orchestral concerts.

The last attempt to reform this sprawling orchestral empire, however, was so ineptly handled that it united the music profession and music-lovers against the BBC. That was in 1980, when the corporation announced without

warning the disbandment of five of its 11 orchestras, and served 172 players with dismissal notices. The acrimonious strike that followed was a public-relations disaster for the BBC, and ended in a crushing victory for the Musicians' Union.

Since then, BBC management has been afraid to make any change, however rational, in its inflexible musical ensembles. Yet reform there must be, before the BBC can legitimately jettison the begging-bowl at business sponsors or licence-payers. Too much of the BBC's current musical output is based on the premise that all these salaried orchestras need to be kept busy all the time. The tail is wagging the dog.

It would be tempting to applaud the BBC for creating extra revenue for music, were it not that the level of business sponsorship for the arts is disappointingly sluggish.

The Proms are a symbol of what makes the BBC different from the independent broadcasters — of the commitment to cultural quality which gives it the right to claim the licence fee. If BBC management is reluctant to continue supporting the Proms unless it can cream off large amounts of business sponsorship in the process, its moral claim on the licence fee is substantially diminished. Moreover, the very quality that would attract any business sponsor to the Proms — an enlightened and cultured image — is precisely what the BBC itself desperately needs at present. Why share the glory?

There are already far more arts organisations chasing corporate funding than there are business sponsors to go round: the advent of the BBC in the arena, offering an advertising slot which no other arts company can match, will severely distort the market. A sponsor who is at present courageously supporting a radical theatre company may easily be tempted by the safer rewards of a symphony concert, especially if guaranteed a credit on television. Extra revenue for BBC music may sound a death knell for other arts enterprises.

John Drummond, the present BBC controller of music, is an accomplished in-fighter and often an inspired improviser. The Proms have prospered under his control, and Radio 3 has broadened its appeal without sacrificing standards or broadcasting "Top 100 Classical Hits" as any commercial classical rival would probably do. His announcement of the possibility of Proms sponsorship has been managed with characteristic presidential flair. The impression given is that sponsorship is necessary if the Proms are to pay their way.

But the Proms already pay their way: it is the salaries of the house orchestras that constitute the BBC's chief expenditure on music. That is what Proms sponsorship would subsidise. Yet even this figure is small beer in broadcasting and film terms: comparable to one medium-budget feature film. Regarding that sum, the BBC is prepared to renounce the kudos of being sole benefactor of the world's greatest music festival.

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Stormont's smart set

The imposing and seemingly impenetrable security fence erected a few months ago around Stormont Castle has been breached — not by the IRA or Loyalist paramilitaries but by the security forces, to allow freedom of passage to the inhabitants of six badger sets. Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, has let slip the unusual arrangements, designed to make life easier for the animals trapped inside the perimeter fence. Difficulties arose because of the badgers' attachment to favoured routes for their nocturnal forays, a few discreet holes in the fence turning out to be the only answer.

But is this act of kindness to animals courting disaster? Even as Brooke spoke, Democratic Unionists were demonstrating outside the castle gates against the visit of Irish ministers, whose arrival by helicopter Brooke was awaiting on the Stormont lawn. Apparently not the holes, it is averred, are too small for even the youngest demonstrator to squeeze through. In any case, one wit pointed out, should either Loyalist or republican interlopers gain access they could easily be distinguished from the legitimate users of the holes. Badgers are black and white in appearance; Gerry Adams, Ian Paisley and their partisans merely see everything that way.

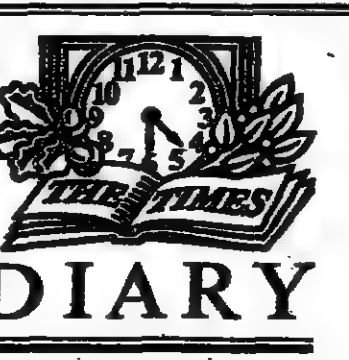
Brooke's insistence that even the demands of security should not impede the badgers' rights of way is perhaps understandable. Brock the Badger features prominently in his family crest.

Steve Norris, until last weekend the parliamentary private secretary to Nicholas Ridley, is making the most of his new-found freedom now that he is no longer on the government's payroll vote. His first act from the backbenches this week was to sign a Labour-sponsored motion calling for a ban on foxhunting. His liberty may be short lived. He is widely tipped to be given a job in the mini-shuffle the prime minister is expected to announce next week.

Wolf calls cut

Admitting no last-minute pang of nostalgia, Wolf Mankowitz jettisoned his lifetime collection of film scripts at Sotheby's yesterday, saying: "I didn't abandon the movie industry, it abandoned me." Mankowitz, who has a string of distinguished screenplay credits from the Fifties and Sixties, including many of the James Bond movies, has not featured in any recent Hollywood epics. "I'd be happy to but I don't suit the type of new young director who is making films for people who eat things while they watch," he says.

Included in yesterday's lots, which fetched £10,000, was a bizarre correspondence with Peter Sellers, with whom he attempted to set up a production company 30 years ago. The inaugural meeting was convened by Lord Goodman at the Royal Opera House, with the late Sir David Webster acting as chairman. They sat waiting for Sellers, but instead a handwritten letter arrived announcing he was pulling out: no reason was given. "It was the first sign of his mental instability. It developed in



Roll of honour

The decision to dedicate the first night of the 1990 Proms season this evening to the memory of Sir John Pritchard has delighted the many friends and colleagues of the colourful conductor. Sir John, who died last year, was a noted *bon vivant*, famous for his sense of fun. Welsh tenor Rhydian Davies, who worked with Sir John at Glyndebourne, recalls the conductor's memorable trip to Buckingham Palace in 1983 to receive his knighthood.

At the time Pritchard was chief conductor at Cologne Opera, and had driven from Germany for the presentation. "He hated German toilet paper and in preparation for his return trip to Cologne had filled the boot of his Mercedes with boxes of soft British toilet rolls," says Davies. Edging his car into the Palace forecourt he was halted for a security check. The car

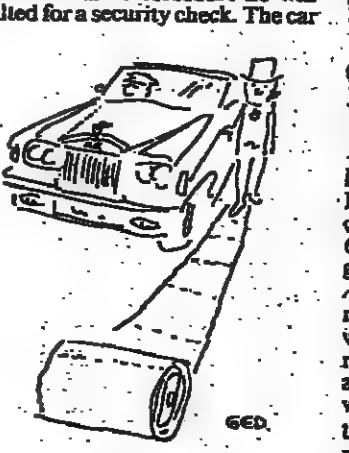
plan to do a number of recordings," enthuses Sheila Colvin, the foundation's director.

The quartet will hold masterclasses and provide tuition for young British musicians at the Britten-Pears school, as well as giving concerts spanning Aldeburgh's musical calendar.

Called to book

Most certainly not by royal appointment, the publisher Sidgwick & Jackson has found itself in trouble with Buckingham Palace about a forthcoming biography to mark the 60th birthday of Princess Margaret. Review copies of *Margaret: A Woman in Conflict* by "expert royal commentator" Paul James were accompanied by a press release boasting about it being an authorised biography. The claim was untrue. This was easily rectified by withdrawal of the press release, but worse was to come. Court officials noticed that the book's glossy pink dustjacket featured a large and unauthorised reproduction of the Princess's autograph. "After discussions," it was agreed that the signature be removed from the cover," says a Palace spokesman; so thousands of jackets had to be shredded.

To cap it all, Christopher Warwick, author of a biography of Princess Margaret that appeared in the early Eighties, discovered an offensive reference to his work and forced the book to be recalled, and the offending page to be removed. Sidgwick should have known better, for it is now Warwick's publisher, too. What is left of James's book will be out next month, disasters permitting.



Borodin for Britain

Soviet artists used to have to defect before moving to Britain. No longer. The Borodin String Quartet is about to abandon Moscow for the sleepy Suffolk town of Aldeburgh to become artists in residence for two years. They are moving to Aldeburgh in November, lured by the Aldeburgh Foundation, organiser of the famous festival. "They were particularly attracted by the town's concert hall, where they

boot was opened for inspection and the policeman on duty stared incredulously at six months' supply of toilet rolls. "Expecting to be a bit nervous, are we sir?"

had driven from Germany for the presentation. "He hated German toilet paper and in preparation for his return trip to Cologne had filled the boot of his Mercedes with boxes of soft British toilet rolls," says Davies. Edging his car into the Palace forecourt he was halted for a security check. The car

After the furore over the leaked guide to the German character, Gabriel Ronay looks at a 18th-century assessment of our neighbours, and finds some curious parallels



A handy guide for the 18th-century travel trade: from the left, the Spaniard, Frenchman, Italian, "good" German, Englishman, Swabian, (or "bad" German), Pole, Hungarian, Muscovite and Greek or Turk

The good, the bad and the Swabian

Margaret Thatcher was wasting taxpayer's money when, on the advice of her foreign affairs specialist, she summoned a secret seminar to divine the national thoughts and virtues of the Germans. The job has already been done with teutonic thoroughness, and the report has been available for more than 250 years.

Word for word, it is better value than the leaked memorandum, and more comprehensive. The stereotypical traits of Europe's 10 leading nations were assessed and, what is more, it carefully distinguished between good Germans — natives of north Germany — and bad Germans, from the south, lumped together under the dismissive term of Swabians.

The *Chart of Nations* was compiled as a thumbnail guide for innkeepers, coachmen and subversive proprietors along the north-south route to Italy across the heart of the Habsburg empire early in the 18th century.

In order to assist the personnel of the 18th-century travel trade in

identification of foreigners passing through their land, the anonymous compiler of the chart provided a nicely illustrated "Brief Description of the Peoples of Europe and their Characteristics" based, no doubt, on practical experience. The innkeepers put up copies in their bars in the heyday of the European Grand Tour as a practical, instant guide. A copy of the chart, which was conceived in Styria, in south-east Austria, has been rescued from oblivion by the Budapest historical journal *Historia*.

The English (and, presumably, the Scots and Welsh, who are not listed separately) were the innkeepers' and postillions' favourite customers. In virtually all the chart's 17 key questions, ranging over morals, intellectual capabilities, attire, shortcomings, ailments, and religious observance, the English came first, beating the Spaniards, Italians, French, Hungarians, Poles, Germans, Swabians, Muscovites (Russians), and the all-purpose Turk or Greek hands down. But the good Germans were not far behind, being adjudged as

being of good character, pious, witty and open-hearted, although a trifle stingy and rather too fond of drinking.

The bad Swabians, on the other hand, were apparently very bad. They were deemed dim-witted, cruel, superstitious zealots, whose favourite pastime was "guzzling wine". Their only redeeming feature was fearlessness in battle, if that is something to commend a stranger asking for a bed in your inn.

In the field of honesty and morals — the key assessment issues in the chart — the English scored top marks with the accolade of "highly developed moral sense" and "of kindly disposition". The French were judged of "easy virtue", the

luckless Swabians "harsh", the Spaniards "haughty", the Italians "underhand" and the Muscovites bottom of the field, having been found "ill-willed".

Heroism in battle and military

mous in battle, the Italians a trifle "over-cautious", while the Russians were "without military valour".

Religious observance in the

century following the Thirty Years

War was the

key to the

assessment of a

stranger in

Europe. In the

wake of almost

half a century of

internecine war

in Britain in the

17th century,

its citizens were

seen as "chang-

ing like the

moon" in their

religious allegi-

ances. The

Swabians were

once again seen

as bad even in

the Catholic

Habsburg empire

and disliked as

"zealots", while the Russians were

dismissed as "rude heretics". The

hard-line Spaniards won the top

accolade in this field for

"outstanding religious observance". Neighbouring Hungar-

ians, represented mainly by their

drovers taking long-horn cattle to

Italy, were clearly not the flavour

of the century, having thrice risen

in rebellion against their Habsburg

overlords. They were

characterised as rebellious, blood-

thirsty war lovers.

Appearance and national attire

helped to classify the traveller in

18th-century Europe. The English

were seen as favouring French-

style clothes, while the French

themselves were "forever chang-

ing their garb". The bad Germans

were "imitating" every-

one. The Russians, not surpris-

ingly perhaps, wore furs with

everything, a habit that must have

raised a few eyebrows in the

temperate climate of central

Europe.

The heart of character assess-

ment was the identification of the

national shortcomings of Europe's

leading nations. The main fault of

the English was their restlessness

and their love of pomp and

circumstance, the bad Germans

were too superstitious, the French

deceitful, the Italians too much

given to pleasure-seeking and the

Russians traitorous, only sur-

passed in this by Greeks and

Turks.

In a catch-all character sum-

mary the English were awarded

the much coveted epithet of

"nice", the good Germans "quite

nice", the Swabians "cruel", the

French loquacious, the Italians

jealous and the Hungarians almost

as cruel as the Russians.

Englishmen, perhaps because of

their long, thin faces and graceful

movements, resembled horses,

according to the chart, the crafty

French were likened to foxes, the

bad Germans to crows, the good

Germans to lions, the Hungarians

to blood-thirsty wolves, the Span-

iards to sagacious elephants, and

the Russians to asses.

In all, the chart of nations must

have been quite a handy guide in

an age which was, as Lawrence

Sterne put it, "so full of light that

there is scarce a country of corner

of Europe whose beams are not

crossed and interchanged with

others".

In this, it was not so different

from ours.

Happy birthday, Rule Britannia

FOR a country estate whose going-on once scandalised the nation and ignominiously immortalised the name of its war minister, John Profumo, the sight of a Commander of the British Empire sporting himself around its grounds wrapped in a Union Jack and waving a conductor's baton was, perhaps, small beer.

Nevertheless, two elderly guests who were treating themselves to a few days at Cliveden, the Buckinghamshire mansion which was once the home of the Astor family and is now one of Britain's grandest hotels, were sufficiently bemused by the spectacle to seek enlightenment from a passing footman. "It's Mr Antony Hopkins, sir," said that retainer respectfully and, doubtless feeling that some

After 250 years of stirring the blood of Britons everywhere, the country's most patriotic song is to get a party to itself

further explanation was required, added: "I understand he's having his photograph taken."

Mr Hopkins, the 69-year-old musician, author and broadcaster, had good reason for his display of patriotic fervour. For it was on the *parterre*, or formal gardens, of Cliveden, on the night of August 1, 1740, that a tune by Dr Thomas Arne, "Rule, Britannia!" was heard in public for the first time. And, in the same spot and on the right date, the Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra, soloist Sarah Walker, will perform it at a concert to celebrate its 250th

birthday. Mr Hopkins, who will conduct the orchestra, was merely taking an advance look at the location and inhaling the appropriate atmosphere.

"I believe that this is the very first time anyone has ever commemorated the anniversary of a single song," he said. "But the honour is fully deserved — it's a super song and was certainly good enough for Beethoven to write variations on it. From the moment it was first played, as part of a masque called *Alfred*, it went straight to the hearts of the British populace."

It will scarcely be the popu-

lace who rejoice this time around — the tickets are £260 each — but if the occasion succeeds in resurrecting the name of the composer from comparative obscurity, it will have achieved an additional purpose. For it was also Dr Arne's harmony which has become today's standard form of the national anthem — "Rule, Britannia!" and "God Save the Queen" (or King, as it then was) is not a bad double act for a man who was known as "the English nightingale".

Nor was it only Beethoven who gave "Rule, Britannia!" the seal of approval. Handel

borrowed from it for his "Occasional Oratorio", and Wagner said that its first eight bars embodied the character of the British people. And if next month's location is far removed from the football terraces and the last night of the Proms, at which it has had its most enduring and enthusiastic support, it is at least very much in keeping with the grandeur of its debut.

Anxious to gain favour with the British aristocracy, Frederick, Prince of Wales, the eldest son of George II and Cliveden's owner, decided to commission an evening of British magnificence, ostensibly to honour his daughter's third birthday. Two Scottish poets came up with the words for the resplendent masque and Dr Arne produced the music.



Suitably dressed to celebrate a patriotic classic: Antony Hopkins at Cliveden

There was reportedly scarcely a dry eye in the place as "Rule, Britannia!" rang out.

The cost of the birthday celebrations, including a fireworks display and dancing in the great hall at Cliveden, is £45,000 with any profit going

to the Prince's Trust. "The house was full with resident guests within 48 hours of the first announcement," says John Sinclair, Cliveden's general manager.

Cliveden's connection with the birth of Britain's most

patriotic song was discovered by Nicy Roberts, the house's marketing manager and a bachelor of music. "The more I read, the more I realised that this day couldn't be allowed to pass by," she says.

WILLIAM GREAVES

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BARRY RICKHALL

Paying up for children

In November 1987, in a burst of bicentennial fervour, Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, declared that by the end of 1990 no Australian child would be living in poverty. He regretted the extravagance at once. "What he had meant to say was: 'As a result of the social infrastructure currently being put into place, no Australian child will need to live in poverty by the end of 1990.'"

He had wandered from the script, misled perhaps by his enthusiasm for the fledgling child support scheme, a winning adjustment to the social infrastructure which had the rare charm of appealing to the soft left on the one hand, and the hard right on the other.

Not only would it improve the lot of children in single-parent families by chasing and enforcing maintenance payments from non-custodial parents (usually fathers), it would cut the sole parent pension (allowance) dramatically by moving the onus of support from the state to the individual. Pensions would still be paid but at a reduced rate, depending on the size of the maintenance order.

The scheme, whose motto is Putting Children First, has been in force for two years. It was introduced with all-party support in two stages, in June 1986 and October 1989. Its success is currently being assessed; reviews range from the ecstasy of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), which believes it to be "an enormous triumph", through the caution of the welfare groups ("it works very well for some"), to the fury of outraged fathers.

There is no doubt that it has thrown up problems, but what cannot be denied is that most custodial parents (usually mothers) are better off than they were, most non-custodial parents are complying with its orders, and the Department of Social Security (DSS) is substantially richer.

According to figures provided

Australia is two

years ahead of

Britain in forcing

absentee fathers to

pay maintenance.

David Chuter (right)

tells Barbara Toner

how the policy works



by ATO, before the scheme began only 30 per cent of those who should have been paying maintenance actually were, and of these only 45 per cent were paying it regularly. Since the scheme, 57 per cent of those registered have paid up immediately, and a further 7 per cent coughed up within two months.

David Chuter, director of the child support agency in New South Wales, says: "We take action on the remaining 36 per cent - a letter, a phone call or a summons - and we end up with a payment rate of 71 per cent. This means that 29 per cent of custodial parents are not getting a brass razoo, but a large number are much better off."

The agency uses all the resources of the ATO, plus other sources. "There are motor transport records, health insurance records, the state's lotteries offices, Telecom and loads of others," Mr Chuter says. "We write off just 2 per cent as untraceable."

Once traced, the parent agrees a method of payment. Just under a third accept automatic withdrawal, where the maintenance payments are deducted from their pay packets by their employers. The rest agree to send monthly payments to the ATO - or refuse to, as the case may be. "Some don't want to pay,

especially fathers of Mediterranean or south-east European descent. They can get very difficult," Mr Chuter says.

Enforcement techniques include penalties of Aus\$20 (£8.75) per month, withholding of tax rebates, civil proceedings to recover goods to the value of the debt, or an examination summons when a parent must show the court why he is unable to pay.

In the financial year 1989-90 the DSS saved Aus\$34.2 million and in 1990-91, it is expected to make a saving of Aus\$120 million. Not everyone is thrilled. Reservations are mainly to do with the way the scheme is administered. Three separate government departments are involved: the ATO, which is responsible for registration, collection and enforcement, the DSS, which hands over the money to the custodial parent, and the attorney general's office, which is responsible for the family courts to which appeals can be made by either parent.

Currently, their clients fall into stage one and stage two categories. Stage two applies to anyone who separated, or gave birth subsequent to separation, after October 1, 1989. Stage one applies to everyone else. Stage two clients register with the child support agency, which works out how much maintenance to seek accord-

ing to a formula. Stage one people have their maintenance fixed by a court order or court registration order.

According to Marion Brown, a solicitor with the Women's Legal Resource Centre, one of the main objections to the scheme is that parents wanting to claim sole parent allowances cannot under stage two unless they also apply for maintenance. "There are women who don't want to open old relationships with men who have been bastards. You can't tell me that a man who hasn't seen his wife and kids for years won't think, when he's hit with a maintenance order, 'If I'm going to pay, I want to see the kids. Then he takes her to court for access and they're involved all over again.'"

Mr Chuter admits they have had some problems with fathers confusing the issues of access and custody with maintenance. "They don't understand that access is the child's right, not theirs. They've had the children, so it's their duty to maintain them, whether they see them or not. We're seeking funding for additional counselling in the family courts," he says.

There are other hiccups, like the length of time it takes to process a registration. Once a non-custodial parent has registered, four months pass before the first payment. The ATO admits it is a problem but claims it has no solutions.

"There will always be individuals for whom the system won't work, who'll say it doesn't work, full stop. But it does," Mr Chuter says. But he acknowledges how sensitive an area it is. There have been distressing scenes in the Sydney child support agency, located in a suburban tax office.

"We had a man come in and strip off his shirt," Mr Chuter says. "He was yelling, 'Take the shirt off my back, you've got everything else! Then he took off his shoes and socks. When he got to his trousers he was restrained by a security guard.'"



Happy family: but when couples separate, Australia has found ways of making men pay the price

The best policy is no policy at all

THE state of television presenter Jeremy Paxman's coiffure is beside the point, I know. Still, the fact is I knew we were in for a really good *Newsnight* when I switched on the television set last Wednesday and saw those little tendrils that tumble, ever so slightly, over his forehead, all a-quiver. Mr Paxman was really engaged.

Under discussion was Mrs Thatcher's policy on the family, not a naturally promising topic, one would have thought. There to help whizz things along were Lord Joseph, the former education secretary, Edwina Currie and Harriet Harman. In keeping with the political tenor of this week, I noted that Mrs Currie, who, during question time, had praised the prime minister for "looking jolly good", was looking a jolly lot better than I have ever seen her, with a manner that verged, although did not part, on calm.

Before the discussion proper, there was a bit of data on the changing marital status of cabinet ministers. Forty years ago there was barely a divorce to be seen in the cabinet. But now we have a Conservative prime minister who is married to a divorced man. We have had a cabinet whose ministers have their share of second wives and even the odd illegitimate child. That seemed to me an essential point to grasp. Society is not static, and it will develop as it pleases in a way that seems most comfortable and natural to human beings at a given state of cultural and technological development.

"It's taken the government 16 years to develop a policy on the family, hasn't it?" was Mr Paxman's opening question to Lord Joseph. This was followed up by, "Are you saying women shouldn't go out to work?" and "Well, what are they supposed to do then?" when Lord Joseph voiced some mild unhappiness with the notion of taxpayer-funded crèches.

The key point Lord Joseph made was a philosophical one of considerable importance: namely, that good parenting was not necessarily dependent on traditional structures. Single men or women could be good parents if they were of good character. Nor was he opposed to mothers going out to work if that was what they wanted to do. Government could usefully provide some structures in which good parenting might take place (such as eliminating unfair tax treatment of stay-at-home mothers), but could do little about the most important element in preserving the family, namely, the matter of creating reliable human beings.

This is surely the key point. Some mothers (single or married) will choose to take a cut in living standards in order to stay at home and raise their children. This is not a moral decision but simply a matter



BARBARA TONER

of judgment. One should not try to change this for the sake of the economy or the diet of the family: a middle-class lifestyle is a perfectly decent human ambition, but it is not at this point a human right to be enforced or subsidised by the state. There are, of course, some single mothers who are either too young or too ill-equipped to do much more than throw themselves into the state's safety net. We must continue to try to do everything possible to see that there is sufficient food, shelter and clothing for them.

But fathers who desert their offspring, or women who have illegitimate children and are unable to shoulder the respon-

sibility of looking after them will not be helped one iota by the state creating nurseries. Anyone who thinks that inadequate human beings can be given job skills and initiative this way are stark raving mad. To a large extent, the problem of fatherless families and helpless mothers is the result of a totally demoralised society and has to do with the social ambience we have created. It is rather like living with a demoralised army: an army with high morale is one in which you have a bunch of soldiers for whom it would take more courage to run away from the enemy than to face it. So long as our social ambience goes on telling people that it is up to the government to sort their lives out, the courage they need to face the consequences of their actions will wither away.

Human society has become so technologically advanced, but is helpless in the management of the most basic aspects of existence

The prime minister also seems entranced with the idea of creating a new bureau to track down runaway fathers

who are delinquent in their support payments. One has no sympathy for those subhumans who desert their responsibilities, but Mrs Thatcher might want to think again about that one. If the Canadian experience is anything to go by, it costs taxpayers about £2 to collect every 50p of support. But, far more importantly, giving new and increased access to information collected by Inland Revenue in order to assess support payments or locate the workplace of a delinquent parent breaches further the confidentiality of tax returns. It is no excuse to say that this confidentiality has long been under attack: a citizen's willingness to reveal detailed personal information to the government in his tax return should be protected above all else, or the very foundation upon which our society operates will atrophy.

Mrs Thatcher is said to be unsure of which way to jump in fashioning a policy for the family. In my view she should say a plague on the house of anyone who wishes to design any policy at all. The best thing one can do for the family is to leave it alone. All women should have the choice to stay at home or go out to work, but it is not the business of the state to "encourage" men, women or fish in their choices. Musing about all this, one is struck by the curious paradox that human society has become so technologically advanced but is so helpless in the management of the most basic aspects of existence. This was not always so, of course. In the middle ages, a villager could have explained how to grow food, build homes, raise children or trade in the market. No more. Most of us cannot explain how electric lights work or how telephones operate. We need experts in every area. If the most "primitive" neanderthal was almost totally self-sufficient, the most "civilised" person today appears to be almost helpless. We need specialists to tell us how to relate to our husbands, make our marriages work and discipline our children. I suppose the bargain is not so bad. As society increases in complexity we live longer and more comfortably, face fewer hazards and have better flu vaccines. All we seem to lose is the independence, pride and self-sufficiency that a near-total grasp of our world gave us. Even the most level-headed person is a little alienated in this vastly complicated world, which is unsurprising since most of us do not understand 99 per cent of what makes it tick. Now we are asking the state to create a plan for our families. So all of us, single parents, families and spinsters, may enjoy our Walkmans, watch our satellite television, work out our benefits on computer cards and, like idiot savants, look to the minister to tell us how to tie our shoelaces.

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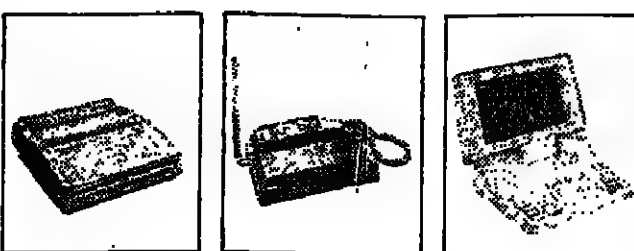
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Pretty paw show, good pedigree

John Russell Taylor on London exhibitions by two unusual photographers, William Wegman and Madame Yevonde

It is incredible that William Wegman is so little known in Britain. After all, he is the man who photographed Man Ray. Not Man Ray the great surrealist photographer — that would not guarantee fame and fortune in these jaded days — but Man Ray the large and rather melancholy-looking Weimar-era. When this Man Ray went to the great kennel in the sky in 1982, he was replaced by the no less photogenic, no less patient Fay Ray, and the collaboration continues.

Collaboration does not seem too strong a word, faced with the innumerable photographs in which the dog Man or Fay obliquely makes itself into a table-top, daintily poised on four spindly wooden legs, or enigmatically contemplates the result of a quick application of Jungle Red polish to the toenails, or pretends to be an elephant with a long grey sock for trunk, or becomes a New York society matron dressed for the ball. Either they have passed, as Constant Lambert remarked of something else, from the calm of a philosopher to the passivity of a dead object, or they actually enjoy and participate in the game.

A careful reading reinforces the philosophical view of the situation. From time to time a look of lofty tolerance at the vagaries of humans may be detected, but as a rule they seem resigned to, or even appreciative of, their role in the creation of Wegman's world. And now that he has taken to painting as well, perhaps the dog Fay will have rather less call on its energy and creative imagination. But if so, the extensive evidence on show at the ICA and at Hamiltons strongly suggests that both Wegman and the world may be poorer for it.

The ICA? What does anything so whimsical and frivolous have to do with that golem temple of the avant-garde? It might, of course, be a bit of summer madness to give over the downstairs galleries to a lot of pictures of dogs in fancy dress, plus some paintings and drawings from the same hand. (The upper galleries hold a handful of rather wan and wispy paintings by Alex Katz.) On the other hand, perhaps the idea is to direct viewers towards the perception of more and deeper meaning than they might otherwise

(or soberly) wish to encounter. The lavishly produced catalogue does its best, linking Wegman with conceptual art and finding beneath the opulent surface of his newer pictures a continuing moral stance in relation to the inscrutability of the animal. Fair enough. It cannot be denied that the more apparently anthropomorphised the Rays are, the less spectators are inclined to go "ooh" and "aah" and see them as being just like people they know. Whatever the skin — leopard, zebra or nattily styled astronaut — the dog beneath it is still a dog.

No less, *mutatis mutandis*, can be said for the "Goddesses" of 1935, the most famous series of pictures produced by Madame Yevonde. Slightly surrealist in their conception and vibrantly, even luridly captured by the now obsolete Vivex process, they are intensely of their period. They are also, to modern eyes, given an extra layer of surrealist feeling by the weird dislocation between the subjects and the sitters. All of them are evidently deities who would probably rather be on the hunting field than draped in all this mythological clobber pretending to be Hebe at the well or Euterpe with her plectrum.

There is easy fun to be made of some of the pictures at the National Portrait Gallery. But there is also a clear impression that Madame Yevonde would have shared the joke. Yevonde was, surprisingly, her real name: Yevonde Cumbers was born in 1893 near Streatham Common to a prosperous middle-class family, was a suffragette and became a photographer quite by chance, when she answered an advertisement for a trainee pupil by the established Hampstead photographer Lena Correll. She did not take the job, but before long she had herself become a successful society photographer.

She does not seem to have been as limited as her professional position might suggest. She was always interested in the artistic side of photography as well as the technical, and on both was inclined to experiment.

The idea for the "Goddesses" apparently came from a grand Olympian party of 1935, which

also presumably suggested the debby cast. But her imagination was genuine enough, and some of the more bizarre images work amazingly well, such as that of Lady Balcon as Minerva with helmet, gun and owl. Many of her more prosaic works at the time, the advertising pictures and the portraits of celebrities (such as A.A. Milne) are touched with the same weirdness.

The Vivex process itself, of which she seems to have been the great exponent, deserves at least a footnote. It was in certain ways parallel to the classic Technicolor process in the cinema which irradiated *Gone with the Wind* and made Betty Grable's lips redder and lusher than anything previously known.

Eventually Vivex, like Technicolor, fell victim to its own complexity, its multiplicity of negatives (on glass in the case of Vivex) and its expense of time and money. But one need only look at the mouth-watering richness of colour in the portrait of Vivien Leigh, quite underperformed by the passage of 54 years, to regret the passing of the process.

Madame Yevonde was no victim. She went back to black-and-white, photographed many distinguished women (one series under the provocative title "Dove or Predator?") and many no less distinguished men, produced an important photographic record of Ethiopia at the age of 71 and was active up to her death in 1975.

Though unlikely to be restored to a prominent place in the pantheon of great photographers, she is undoubtedly a substantial and significant figure. Anyone tempted to think that the National Portrait Gallery's featuring of her (with the co-operation of the Royal Photographic Society, to which she belonged for most of her working life) may be another piece of summer camp, is due for a surprise.

William Wegman, *Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, SW1 (071-930 0472), until September 1.*
William Wegman, *New Works, Hamiltons Gallery, 18 Colton Place, W1 (071-499 9493), until August 31.*
Madame Yevonde, *Colour, Fantasy and Myth, National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2 (071-306 0055), until September 30.*



"Roller Rover" by William Wegman featuring Fay Ray, his Weimaraner, is one of the many dog studies included in the retrospective show at the ICA Galleries

NATURAL FORM

Denis Mitchell is a veteran of St Ives, and learned his sculptor's craft as Barbara Hepworth's chief assistant. There is no doubt one can see the influence, but his complex yet organic-looking forms take on an unmistakable life of their own.
Gillian, Jason Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (071-257 4835). Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, until August 10.

MANY SPLENDOROUS: There seem to have been hardly anything Frank Brangwyn could not do: he painted, he drew, he illustrated, he designed pots and fabrics and furniture. Some good examples here.
Courtyard, Town Docks Museum, Queen Victoria Square, Hull (0482 222737). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 1.30-4.40pm, until September 3.

WITH BITE: Alexis Hunter began with photographs about splashing and messy things with spike heels. Now she paints, with full feminist fury, and consequent power. Latest landscapes related to Camden Town. More: psychological than topographical.
Odette Gilbert Art Projects, 5 Oak Street, London W1 (071-437 3175). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until August 7.

WELSH WIZARD: Not quite a Welsh born wizard, but George Chapman, over a ream of 30-odd years, has certainly gained his right to be regarded as one of the finest and most sympathetic exponents of the Welsh scene. Grim but invigorating.
Pride Gallery, Radley Mews, London W8 (071-539 4374). Tue-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm, until August 5.

OFF THE FLOOR: Scorn not this humble lookout in the hands of a master the most mundane, majestic, can speak to life. And who doubts Picasso was a master? His sketches are amazing, strong, colourful, funny and serious by turns.
Meriborough Graphics, 42 Dover Street, London W1 (071-495 2842). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until August 4.

PIPS-SMOKE: The 1941 self-portrait in blue open-neck shirt, with pipe clenched firmly between his teeth, provides the clue: William Ding's paintings are a string of tributes to straightforward values and solid realistic craftsmanship.
Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 6176). Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm, Fri-Sat 10am-6pm, until August 10.

ABSTRACT EXPRESSION: Emig from Germany, Hans Holm (1900-1986), became the spiritual father of the New York Abstract Expressionists. Powerful colours, expressive forms.
Grawe Gallery, 171a Strand, London WC2 (071-235 2464). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm, until July 31.

LAST CHANCE
BEVEL COOK: Illustrations.
Porter Gallery, 18a Grafton Street, London W1 (071-493 0706). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 11am-2pm, until July 29.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CLASSICAL MUSIC: CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

Fewer fireworks, more musical substance

Now coming round for the 46th time, the Cheltenham Festival is occasionally accused of being always the same, but there is a sense, even a melancholy sense, in which that cannot be true. We are most unlikely to relive the excitement of the late 1950s, when the advent of Harrison Birtwistle and Peter Maxwell Davies brought scandal to the Pump Room and affrontedness to the Town Hall: audiences have grown more tolerant, or perhaps merely less concerned. But, happily, excitement of a more innately musical kind can still happen. The best example on offer this year was in the revelation of a Double Concerto for oboe and clarinet by Simon Bainbridge.

Bainbridge, now in his late thirties, is a master composer for the orchestra who has written far too little orchestral music: it is good news that a compact disc including his Viola Concerto and Fantasia for Double Orchestra is due to be released soon. The new Double Concerto follows in the line of those two works in being a continuous process of generation, involving in this case a sustained acceleration throughout a span of 20 minutes and at the same time a constant unfolding of melodic and harmonic potential, so that the music becomes at once more agitated and more complex, as if the complexity fuelled the agitation, or the agitation needed out the increasingly fine detail.

The beautiful starting point is a long-held, wide-spread chord, out of which notes gradually fade to leave a bed of a major in the bass, over which the soloists stealthily enter in the same harmony, the oboe wildly high as it is through much of the piece. The clarinet is cast rather in the role of supporting instrument: this is certainly not a double concerto of antagonism, and only rarely is it a concerto of dialogue. Instead the two soloists pursue very much the same line through marvellous

blendings, particularly in the long extensions of slow melody which occupy much of the body of the piece: slow melody suspended across a finely imagined orchestral background which gradually begins to sprout related melodies and activities.

Writing for a Beethoven-sized orchestra of double wind with trumpets but no trombones or percussion, Bainbridge creates an extraordinary individual world of clarity and sumptuousness, partly by the simple but immensely fruitful device of having the woodwind and trumpets in a group on the right, with the horns, suitably whooping as the music bounds on, on the left. The A major of the opening has, of course, no total connotations, but is a signal rather of the concern for the harmonic series that gives the music its transparency and bright colour. Indeed, its vivacity is such that the ending, when it has started to move with a jazz-style beat and voluptuousness, is per-

haps a shade abrupt, though the sudden cut-off may be part of the intention. It decidedly leaves one wanting to hear the whole process again.

Preferably that would be with the same musicians as gave this first performance. Nicholas Daniel was sheerly spectacular, never seeming strained, in the high oboe part, and if the clarinetist Joy Farrall was a more shadowy presence, that was in the nature of the piece. Richard Hickox conducted a City of London Sinfonia nicely tuned to the delicateness and energy of the music.

Daniel and Farrall also gave a recital with the pianist Julius Drake, proving that there is terribly little music for the combination of oboe, clarinet and piano, though their versions of a Telemann suite and of Dvorak's Op 47 Bagatelles sounded well enough. To compensate for the lack of literature they had commissioned a trio from John Woolrich, but his eight-minute

Fantasia in music seemed no more than a chipping, from this well-stocked and generously inventive musical mind. More than a "story in music", it was a story about music, using a cadence from a Monteverdi madrigal to wander through musical history as far as Mozart, Wagner and (less identifiably) Nono. Beautifully made, it was beautifully played, twice, but Woolrich is too fine a composer for one to feel entirely satisfied when a piece of his exists so much in quotation marks.

At least here the quotation marks were conscious. Edward Elgar's half-hour song cycle *Home to Thomas Hardy* took the risk of trespassing on Britten's territory, and paid the penalty of appearing imitative. But Stephen Varcoe's lyrical baritone expertly maintained a pivot between innocence and experience; the Scottish Chamber Orchestra was conducted by Paul Daniel.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

OPERA

Not to be described as family entertainment

An opera based on the "Manson Family" mass murders of 1969 has been premiered in New York this week. James Bone reports

The last anybody heard of Charles Manson was that he was safely in San Quentin State Penitentiary. But two decades have done nothing to erase the memory of the cold-blooded cult killing of the actress Sharon Tate and four others in her Los Angeles home, and the slaughter of another couple the following day.

Those murders in August 1969 put an end to the psychedelic Sixties, and the convicted killers, Manson and his "Family", a rag-bag assortment of middle-class flower children on a bad trip, passed into popular mythology. Now a young avant-garde American composer, John Moran, a protégé of Philip Glass, has written a multi-media opera, *The Manson Family*, premiered this

week at the Alice Tully Hall at New York's Lincoln Center.

The subject matter, rich with themes worthy of Greek tragedy and more than a smattering of theatrical brutality, lends itself easily to the operatic format. As Moran puts it: "Once you get past the basic facts — that Manson and his followers killed Sharon Tate and are now in jail — you have a story that's incredibly involved, twisted and truly epic."

Moran, aged 25, is the son of a university choir leader and spent much of his youth in mental institutions before himself joining a cult for two years. He was

expelled from a music course at the University of Nebraska.

His life changed in 1986 when he handed a tape of his work to Glass, who was performing in the area. At Glass's urging, he moved to New York to pursue composition and now works with the Ridge Street Theater Company, based on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

His first large-scale work was *Jack Benny*, an opera whose score consisted of rearranged recordings of the American television entertainer's *Jack Benny Show* of the 1950s and 1960s. *The Village Voice* called the work "brilliant".

Although the Manson case had already been chronicled in several books, including one by prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi which sold six million copies, Moran verified the story by consulting Manson Family member Susan Atkins, who is serving a life sentence for murder. He now calls her "one of my best friends".

The Manson Family is more traditional in structure than was the plotless *Jack Benny*, tracking events from the murders to Manson's death sentence — commuted when the California Supreme Court struck down the state's capital punishment statute.

The score is largely electronic, with repetitive sequences of single notes like raindrops underlying such effects as passing car engines and television soundtrack. But it also includes parts for the viola and keyboards, and several times the characters are called on to sing in rasping, expressionist tones. Manson's voice is used briefly. Behind, above and on both sides of the stage are large screens on to which are projected images, ranging from newspaper clippings to the bold red word "FUG", as it was smeared in blood on a mirror at Sharon Tate's house.

As in *Jack Benny*, Moran blends in mythic elements from television culture — in this case, the *Hawaii Five-O* detective Steve McGarrett, who replaces Bugliosi as the prosecutor.

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ROCK: BERLIN

The bricklayers' alms

Roger Waters tells Mike Nicholls how he was persuaded to revive his music-theatre piece *The Wall* for one show in Berlin tomorrow

Two years ago, former Pink Floyd member Roger Waters was in Dallas, Texas, talking to a radio presenter about the group's album, *The Wall*. During the early Eighties, the band had performed it as a music-theatre work in major cities of Europe and America. The record went on to sell more than 20 million copies, and the film of *The Wall*, directed by Alan Parker and starring Bob Geldof, has become one of the biggest-selling music videos to date.

Several years ago, amid a certain amount of acrimony, Waters left Pink Floyd, which he had formed in the Sixties. But since he was responsible for writing and composing *The Wall*, the Dallas interviewer wondered whether Waters would ever consider playing the piece again.

"I replied that I would do it as an act of celebration in Berlin if ever they took the wall down," Waters recalls. "A couple of newspapers got wind of the story and I was approached by a distinguished war veteran to perform it there for the benefit of a memorial fund he had just set up. This would have been last September, when things in the East were beginning to free up. But apart from being extremely impolitic and impolite, I don't think it would have been possible

to go to Berlin to play *The Wall*. Not when the chorus of the main song is 'Tear down the wall'."

However, Waters was sufficiently impressed by the war veteran, 72-year-old Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, to wish to contribute in some way. The idea is to raise a permanent fund of £500 million, the accumulating interest from which could be used for worldwide disaster relief.

"So we looked at other possible venues for a performance. I was thinking in terms of the Grand Canyon, the Gobi desert, Red Square or even Wall Street," he reveals. "Then, of course, the Berlin Wall came down last November, so we started converting theory into practice."

The concert takes place tomorrow; 150,000 tickets have already been sold at £15 each. The box office takings (£2.25 million) will more than double with the sale of television rights, with an anticipated audience of a billion expected to watch the show live.

Waters expresses distaste for most concerts in large stadiums, "especially when you are charging them the same amount of money, if not more, as an ordinary hall where they can see more and in

greater comfort. But apart from anything else, *The Wall* was partly an attack on the inherently greedy nature of doing rock 'n' roll shows in cavernous stadiums. Pink Floyd only performed it in more manageable arenas, such as Earls Court."

Tomorrow, singer and bass-guitarist Waters, along with guests, will perform in Potsdamer Platz, once the no-man's-land between East and West Berlin. The fact that the central theme of *The Wall* is authoritarianism and the breakdown of communication makes the site even more appropriate—with Hitler's bunker in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate, and the Reichstag just a grenade's throw from Checkpoint Charlie.

"We actually had to clear the area of grenades, not to mention barbed wire, bombs, mines and other live ammunition," says Waters, "but that was nothing compared to cutting through some of the red tape. For example, the performance involves using armed forces from both the East and West, plus the Red Army choir. Then special clearance had to be obtained to use searchlights, fireworks and the two helicopters

we have requisitioned from the Seventh Airborne British Army Forces in Berlin."

Much of the effort has been made in order that the television audience may enjoy as awesome an experience as those actually there on the night. "Basically what we're presenting is music theatre for a television screen," explains Waters. "This is not just another televised concert. I don't think one can legitimately produce a good television programme which is just a rock 'n' roll show with camera crews rushing about. You wouldn't tolerate that level of production values in a movie."

A perfectionist for whom the phrase "doesn't suffer fools gladly" could have been coined, Waters is particularly concerned about production values. The costs are the highest ever for a musical event. He will not give a figure but claims they have all been covered by sponsorship and the sale of television rights.

"In order to increase the scale of the wall, to accommodate the size of the live audience, we have had to make it 200 yards across and 60 feet high. The inflatable figures are enormous. For example, the teacher's head is the size of a bus,

while one of his hands could garage a Mercedes.

"Quite honestly, I would have liked it to be a free concert, but the authorities convinced me that it would be dangerous to admit more than 150,000 fans. There would not be enough lavatories to go around, and the police argued, too, that more than a million people would turn up and there would be crushes and deaths."

"So we had to make the admission as cheap as possible and make sure people from the East could afford it. This meant waiting until after July 1, when both Deutschmarks reached parity."

The delay has also given Waters time to collect a team of celebrity guests to join him on stage. These range from the likes of Joni Mitchell and Van Morrison from his own generation, to the more contemporary Sinéad O'Connor.

"They have not got much in common except they are all people whose work I admire," says Waters. "There will be no solo spots, as the idea is not for this to be another Live Aid. Nor is it a gathering of rock 'n' roll stars. It is just a piece of music theatre, with no headlining act. Even if there was, they would probably be drowned out by the helicopters."

● *The Wall* — Berlin 1990 is relayed live on Channel 4 tomorrow from 10pm until approximately 12.20am



Composer Roger Waters before part of the real Berlin Wall

ROCK ALBUMS

A case of nostalgie de la boudoir?

Wendy & Lisa: Erola (Virgin CDVX 2633)

BOUDOIR pop-funk delivered in a spirit of sassy good humour remains the ex-Revolutionaries' preferred stock in trade, but there is also a strong back-to-the-future element to their music which is becoming ever more pronounced.

Many tracks on this new set, such as the sultry opener "Rainbow Lake" and the dreamy "Staring at the Sun", have that Olde Worlde "real" electric guitar and piano sound that Lenny Kravitz has cultivated so assiduously. The album as a whole is suffused with lush psychedelic overtones whose provenance remains firmly located in the original Summer of Love.

Typical of the trippy feel is the current single, "Strung Out", where harmonium and hurdy-gurdy whine and clunk through verses which bleed carelessly into a bewitching chorus. Here Wendy's seductive vocals play nicely on the song's mildly sinister theme, boldly embracing the idea of being in love as a metaphor for drug addiction.

On a heavier musical note,

"Why Wait for Heaven" drifts along on a languorous Robin Trower-style wash of power wah-wah guitar chords, its fine melody ascending to peaks of controlled ecstasy above the Mogadon-treated pulse.

The Prince connection lingers, but its grip on their music is clearly slackening as the girls' own, more centred retro-rock feel comes into play. Even so, there is still more potential than there are fully realised accomplishments to speak of here.

Bob Geldof: *The Vegetarians of Love* (Mercury 846 250-2)

Any change of direction away from the turgid adult pop which bedevilled Bob Geldof's 1986 solo debut, *Deep in the Heart of Nowhere*, is welcome, and this belated follow-up plants its musical roots in the more fertile soil of the Irish folk tradition.

The dominant instrumental textures are provided by acoustic guitars, accordions, shored up by acoustic guitars, violins, penny-whistles and ukelele on numbers which bounce along with a merry Gaelic

lilt: "A Gospel Song", with its Waterboys-meet-Bob-Dylan ambience and "Big Romantic Stuff", with its mob-handed vocal chorus and typically deprecating lyrics.

But even when Geldof is indulging in the withering contempt of "The Great Song of Indifference" or talking his way through the little inanities of life with no pretensions whatsoever, in "No Small Wonder" there is still a nagging impression that he is trying on other people's musical coats for size.

No harm in that, everyone from Kevin Rowland to David Bowie may say, but the peculiar course of Geldof's career has stripped his public persona of the artifice which is a primary weapon in the arsenal of most performers. Having given a much better account of himself as a charity worker — and, for that matter, as an author — than he ever will as a singer, Geldof is left looking for a musical role which he is able meaningfully to fill. *The Vegetarians of Love* is a comfortable but by no means convincing move in the right direction.

Primus: *Frizzie Fry* (Caroline CARLP 10)

A Bay Area thrash-funk guitar trio with a difference, Primus exhibits the delinquent musical tendencies of early Frank Zappa updated to sit comfortably in the modern milieu of bands such as Anthrax and Faith No More, whom they have recently been supporting on tour in America.

Once you have got past the grotesque cover illustration, *Frizzie Fry* is a trove of outstanding musicianship drawing on a bottomless sump of raw creative energy.

There is an edgy, border-of-insanity quality to "Mr Knowit-all", "Groundhog's Day" and "The Toys go Winding Down", with their glorious, peppy riffs punched out in neat, urgent stabs of sound. Above all, the clipped chunky bass patterns, taut guitar solos and endlessly inventive drumming betray no hint of the overbearing sogginess that is the besetting vice of the more conventional breed of metal guitar bands.

DAVID SINCLAIR

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 38 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE POGUES

Shane MacGowan's muddled rasp and the Pogues' hell-for-leather approach are unlikely ever to be palatable to those for whom folk is a rock context, means the gentle whimsy of Suzanne Vega or the master craftsman approach of Fairport Convention. But the days when the Pogues could be ignorantly dismissed as talentless hoodlums desecrating a noble strand of the Irish heritage have long since passed. Their music was first called into question on the *Brasserie* and *Laish* (1985), an album placed squarely in the post-punk idiom but drawing divine inspiration from the well of traditional Gaelic melody; it boasts a fine version of Ewan MacColl's "Dirty Old Town". If I should Fall From Grace With God (1988) — album of the year in both *The Times* and *The Guardian* — spread the net wider with many gleeful bursts of cross-cultural raucousness. It includes the hit "Fairytale of New York", a single which took the immortal line "Happy Christmas your arse" or God it's our last" to No 2 in the festive chart.

PINK FLOYD

The album which dominated the Seventies was *Dark Side of the Moon*, released on March 24 1973. It took Pink Floyd from the backwaters of English acid rock conceptualism into the international super-league, and defined an era of album-orientated rock, selling over 19 million copies. But the slightly ponderous air of mystery which cloaks this epic, and its equally weighty follow-up, *Wish You Were Here* (1975), is some way removed from the spiky eccentricity of the group's early work.

This album reflects the early dominance of songwriter Syd Barrett, who first moulded the group's R'n'B beat-boom roots into a vehicle suitable for inter-planetary flights of the imagination. The subject-matter had become decidedly more earthbound when *The Wall* (1979), by which time the group was labouring under the yoke of bassist/lyricist Roger Waters. However, guitarist David Gilmour took over for *A Momentary Lapse of Reason* (1987) which ushered in a glorious Indian summer for the band.

NEXT WEEK: The Police, Iggy Pop

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CRITICS' CHOICE: JAZZ, ROCK AND WORLD MUSIC

JAZZ

RONNIE SCOTT'S CLUB: Trumpeter Maynard Ferguson thrashes out the high register runs with his apprentice big band, Big Bop Nouveau. Ex-Miles drummer Tony Williams takes over for one night only on Sunday, leading his somewhat and neo-bop quintet. Bradford Marshall begins a week's residency on Monday.

RONNIE SCOTT'S CLUB, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs, £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat, £12 (members £3), Sun, £12 (£10 in advance).

KEN PELOWSKI: Making his first UK visit as a leader, the American reed player is promoting a lively Concord album, *Mr Gentle and Mr Cool*. Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 8722), tonight, 9.30pm, £5. Bull's Head, 373 Lonsdale Road, London SW13 (081-876 5241) (with Martin Taylor), the Fountain, Parkway, Welwyn Garden City (0707 325041), Sun, 8pm, £4.

MARTIN TAYLOR: The guitarist's newest recording takes him into commercial fusion territory. Bull's Head (as above), Sun, lunchtime, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, £4-£8. Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 8722), Wed, 9.30pm, £5.

SUN RA: Strangely popular with young audiences, the veteran bandleader serves up more intergalactic moonshine. Wigan International Jazz Festival, Mill at the Pier (information: 0942 825677), tomorrow, 8pm, £10.

CLAIRE MARTIN: An assured young singer whose repertoire ranges as far afield as Betty Carter and, occasionally, Thomas Dolby. HQ Restaurant, Camden Lock, London NW1 (071-485 6044), tomorrow, 8.45pm, set begins 10.30pm, £5 (free to diners).

DIGBY FAIRWEATHER: As part of the City of London Festival, the comet player makes the first of five lunchtime appearances, starting with guest trumpeter Kenny Baker. Broadgate Arena, off Liverpool Street, London EC2 (information: 071-248 4260), Mon-Fri, 12.30-2pm, free.

VORTEX JAZZ BAR: A notably strong jazz opens tonight with the quartet of township pianist

ROCK

Mervyn Atkins, followed by saxophonist Barbara Thompson (formerly up-and-comer and jazz-blues singer Carol Gimes (Thurs). Vortex Jazz Bar, 139 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 (071-254 6516), nightly, 8.30pm, prices vary.

CLIVE DAVIS

WORLD MUSIC

MADONNA: Compared with the Klydes and Sinits who followed her, Madonna now seems like a heavyweight proposition, even if she has squandered a lot of critical goodwill with her scandalously poor new album, *I'm Breathless*. Advance reports describe the costumes and stage routines as both stunning and provocative. Wembley Stadium, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-900 1234), tonight-Sun, gates 4pm, £20.

TINA TURNER: Continuing the latest "farewell" tour from the 50-year-old sequenced trouper who is rapidly turning into the Mr Chips of rock. With that gleaming smile and sexy gal she's always a game and entertaining performer who belts out her seamless material with remarkable zest. International Stadium, Gateshead (091-477 5511), tonight, Sun, gates 4pm, £18-£22. Town Football Club, Portman Road (0473 217272), Wed, gates 3pm, £22-£24.

THE ROLLING STONES: Keith Richards's sticky finger is on the mend and this week's dates go ahead as scheduled. The two Wembley shows have been put back to August 24 and 25. Original tickets remain valid. Manchester City Football Ground, Maine Road, Moss Side (061-273 3775), tonight, tomorrow, gates 4pm, £20.

ETTA JAMES: The rehabilitated Sixties R'n'B singer is in bold mood on her latest album, *Stokin' to my Guns*, where she belts her way through material ranging from vintage Otis Redding ("I've Got Dreams to Remember") to modern dancefloor funk ("Get Funky") with LA rapper Del Jet. Town & Country, 8-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Mon, Tues, 7.30pm, £10.

THE NEVILLE BROTHERS: Still plugging their recent single, a revitalised version of Leonard Cohen's "Bird on a Wire", the

masters of New Orleans funk synopses break off from their engagement as support act on Tina Turner's Gateshead and Ipswich dates (see above) for a night of languid but impressive partying-down in their own right. Apollo, Ardwick Green, Manchester (061-273 3775), Mon, 7.30pm, £7-£9-£5.50.

DAVID SINCLAIR

U. SRINIVAS: The mandolin is not the most expressive of instruments, but this young player of Carnatic, South Indian music, manages to extract most of its limited potential. Turner Simms' Concert Hall, Southampton University (0703 671771), tonight, 7.30pm, £5.

PUMP ROOM, South (0225 315329), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £5. The Albert Hall, Victoria Square, Bolton (0204 364333), Sun, 3.30pm, £4.

SHAKUAT HUSSAIN KHAN: This virtuoso tabla player from Pakistan will be performing solo as special guest on a programme which already includes Santoor player, R. Vaidyanathan. Kuria Gallery, Westbourne Grove, London W2 (061-346 3638), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £8.50.

CELIA CRUZ: Performances by the most glamorous Cuban-born singer, the undisputed queen of Salsa, have become a highlight of the concert calendar. She will be appearing with the equally venerable Tito Puente. Highly recommended. Hammersmith Palais, Shepherds Bush Road, London W6 (061-748 2812), Sun, 7.30pm, £10.

WOMAD AT RIVERMEAD: The most ambitious festival of world music since WOMAD's first venture. Performers on a strong bill include Van Morrison, Nigeria's Femi Kuti, Cuba's Irakere, Algerian Rai star Cheba Fadela and Sorba Kuyate from Senegal. Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading, Berkshire (0734-591591), today-Sun, weekend tickets £20.

BANDA MEKE COM TUDO: A ten-piece group from Brazil that explores the varied rhythms of their country. Base Club, Cornhill Street, London W1 (071-723 2476), tonight, tomorrow, 8.30pm, £6.50.

DAVID TOOP

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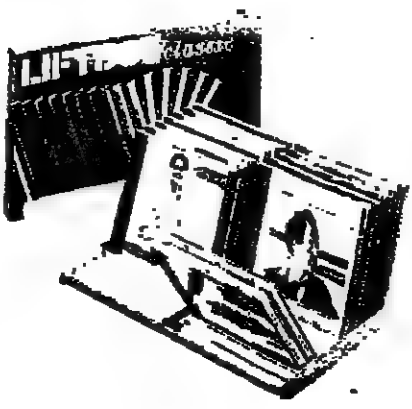
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THEATRE

The Silver King Chichester

VICTORIAN melodrama has not been so lucky with its champions as Victorian architecture. Perhaps because the latter is so very much with us, its virtues as well as its huge vices have eventually to be recognised.

However, Victorian drama, that vast body of work, has been consigned to invisibility. Of all melodramas, *The Silver King*, by Henry Arthur Jones and Henry Herman, was one of the most successful. It ran for a year after its first performance in 1882, and was revived often in the first half of the 20th century. Peter Wood's intelligent, if not totally convincing attempt to reclaim it as valid drama, or literature (as Matthew Arnold regarded it), yields some unexpected results.

Carl Tom's rather dark, heavy sets, which use the revolve to create interiors of pubs, offices and hovels, with grey brick warehouse walls in the background, anchor the piece in a Victorian London which suggests Dickens and Conan Doyle alike.

More important, Wood has opted for a fairly straight style of acting, eschewing the grand manner and exaggerated gestures. The main exception is Alan Howard's Wilfred Denver, the Silver King of the title, who gambles away his fortune, believes he has shot someone in a drunken fit, emigrates to America, makes a fortune and returns incognito.

It is good to see Howard back in

the theatre after what seems a long and inexplicable absence. He remains a mannered but exciting actor, using his high voice like a flute, a reed, a trumpet, to weave pieces of sound almost like a hypnotist. However, he is also capable of explosive action.

Without Howard, the evening would seem flat. In the first scene, for example — Derby Day evening in a London pub — having backed the wrong horse, he loses the rest of his money on the tables, asks his wife "What made you marry me?", embraces then rejects her, and pulls out a revolver with intent to kill a potential rival.

Meanwhile, in the same pub, a Scotland Yard detective is observing a crack thief. All this happens within five minutes, and demonstrates the special (and quite modern) qualities of melodrama: raw emotions quickly raised to fever pitch without elaborate build-up, in sensational situations.

Wood, interviewed by Jeremy Kingston last week, claimed to have cut all the asides. This is not quite true, and it would have been a shame to miss such gems as "The spider — at last!" "The man who showed me into Geoffrey Ware's room that terrible night — what can it mean?" Much of the pleasure lies in the recognisably melodramatic moments, the cries of "You infernal jackanapes!" or the admission "Perhaps I have gone a step too far this time". These come from Richard Moore's pleasantly soft-voiced, villainous Spider. Other enjoyable cameos among Spider's entourage are Garry Cooper's mug-faced Corkett and Ronnie Leatham's vitriolic Cripps.

HARRY EYRES



Jessica Turner (Nelly Deaver), Alan Howard (Wilfred Denver) and Lucy Baker (Cissy Deaver) in *The Silver King*

DANCE

English National Ballet Coliseum

IT MUST have happened before, but I cannot remember a previous ballet programme where there was a different conductor for each of three ballets. David Frame drew the short straw, I assume, at any rate he was allocated Ravel's *Bohème* in the second programme of English National Ballet's London season.

The night before, he had conducted Martinů's *Symphonic Fantaisies* which this time went to Graham Bond. The music sounded different, but that must have been largely because what was visible while it was playing was no longer Tudor's *Echoing of Trumpets* but MacMillan's original one-act *Anastasia*. If proof was needed that what is being watched affects what is being heard, this was it.

Anastasia had a new protagonist, Trinidad Sevilla. She is much younger than previous dancers in the role, but found the full range of feelings for the woman who either remembers or imagines life as the Tsar's youngest daughter, the death of her family, escape, marriage, motherhood and innumerable torments and humiliations. It was the more

affecting for being played with a fearful reticence.

A guest conductor, Andrew Mogrelia, directed a sprightly account of John Adams's *Common Tones in Simple Time* for the evening's premiere, *Dancing Ledge* by Siobhan Davies. This is her first choreography for ballet dancers after experience with a variety of modern dance companies. The result is a little, twisting style of movement that seems to draw valuable qualities from both sides.

The nine dancers are kept on the go almost the whole time, working in relays. At first they move among giant figures depicted on hanging panels; when these are pulled away, the stage is dominated by a big horizontal tube which revolves to reveal geographical shapes on its surface and lamps within.

This design by David Buckland reinforces the impression that Davies, as usual, has an inspiring idea concealed just beneath the surface of apparently plotless choreography. It is mainly fast, opening out only at the end to a slow rap finale. A distinctive and highly enjoyable work, excellently danced, it is the last creation commissioned for the company by its departed director Peter Schaufuss, and one of the best.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ROCK

The Prince's Trust Wembley Arena

ORDINARILY, one would wish a crippling injury on anyone, but the Prince of Wales's broken arm looks a lot more like a bit of good fortune than it did a couple of days ago. It seems to have prevented him from attending the annual concert arranged for the benefit of his charity, *The Prince's Trust*.

Some guys have all the luck. It is not often that listening to "Nights in White Satin" is a highlight of the evening. This is partly because the Moody Blues do not exactly

perform it every day of the week, but mainly because it is a boring song. They probably sang it to remind Wembley Arena that they used to be huge. The other number they performed, from their latest LP, seemed to acknowledge that they are not any more. "I Know You're Out There Somewhere," crooned Justin Hayward, doubtless referring to the record-buying public that got away. He might alternatively have been singing about the audience, which by no means filled the arena. The empty seats looked like the smart ones.

Early on, Stuart Adamson of Big Country set the tone for the evening by wearing pyjamas. He was not about to go to sleep himself, but did not seem averse to ushering other people in that

CONCERT

Oliver Widmer Wigmore Hall

SO HIGHLY respected and highly subscribed is the Wigmore Hall's Song Recital Series that any one recital within it automatically receives something of an advance imprimatur. For even the debut of an almost unknown Swiss baritone, 24-year-old Oliver Widmer, the Hall was typically full.

Those who keep their ears to the ground will know that Widmer did not spring from nowhere. The surname has its own resonances (his father is the bass, Kurt Widmer) and Oliver had been booked on the understanding that anything that was good enough for the Hohenems Schubertade was good enough for London. After lessons with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and the advocacy of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Widmer Jr is now booked in to a healthy number of festivals and recital rooms. Some members of Wednesday's audience may well have wondered why.

Widmer has the quality of lyric baritone — effortlessly integrated, mellow, and bright with tenor lights — which could be listened to all evening. As an interpreter, though, and a communicator, the

timespan is somewhat shorter. Diction is delectable, yet Widmer has too little to say. The voice moves with supple grace, but it does not always seem over-concerned as to where it is going.

So fluent is Widmer's delivery that he glides over many nuances of melody and harmony in Schubert's ever-sentiment word-setting and ignores some of the music's tougher fibres. In an all-Schubert programme, this does matter. Long, four-lined songs suffered the most: his gentle, almost complacent approach came dangerously near to sending both the voice and the listener into a catatonic trance. "Der Fischer," too, began with some characteristically engaging, fresh story-telling, but its tragic ending was passed by in a tone of voice not dissimilar to that of the tender "Meeres Stille".

Widmer, though, does possess a rare quality of wide-eyed, self-conscious artistry and a latent sensitivity all too seldom found in young Schubert singers. If he can maintain this, break out of his narrow circle, and use both breath and imagination to cultivate different timbres and planes of experience, then his career as a *Lieder* singer could well have places to go.

HILARY FINCH

NEW RELEASES

L'ATLANTIDE (PG): Jean YVES, an intriguing French classic from 1955 — a lyrical, quasi-epic tale of a young man who, after a long and arduous journey, discovers a vast, uncharted world. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

CITY BABY (12): John Waters' irreverent musical comedy satire to the music of the Beatles, the mother with some very bad hair, the father with some very bad teeth. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

INTERROGATION (14): Francis Ford Coppola's portrait of a man in a Sadean prison. Corresponding performance by Kristina Landis as the prisoner who refuses to cave in. Directed in 1981 by Francis Ford Coppola. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

KAMIKAZE HEARTS (18): Rose Annemarie's first feature film, a love story set in London and London, about the love and daily round of two actresses in the photographic film business. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

BLIND FURY (18): Fully comic, adventure inspired by a Japanese novel, with Roger Moore as a blind man who is actually a very powerful man. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

BOUGHT A WARRIOR (18): A story of a man who is sold into slavery and then escapes. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

CINEMA PARADISO (PG): Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic tale of a small Sicilian town, an homage to the cinema. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

DARK ANGEL (18): A horror action film with a woman who is a vampire. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

DICK TRACY (PG): The blockbuster of the decade, a story of a man who is a detective. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (18): A story of a man who is a warrior. (Cannon Video) (071-222 5533)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films. In London and where indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY JULY 20 1990

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
- MADEIRA REPORT 32,33
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 34
- MOTORING 36
- SPORT 38-42

Ban on adviser secured by SIB

THE Securities and Investments Board has, for the second time in less than a week, secured two injunctions to prevent an unauthorised adviser from giving investment advice.

Randhir Singh, formerly a top salesman with Abbey Life, has been ordered to cease conducting unauthorised investment business in contravention of section 3 of the Financial Services Act 1986. He has also been restrained from making misleading statements in contravention of Section 47 of the Act.

The SIB said it was investigating the affairs of Mr Singh who is not authorised to conduct investment business. Mr Singh of Dulwich, south London, was arrested and released on bail last month after an investigation by Scotland Yard into alleged irregular mortgage deals.

The SIB is continuing its investigation into the affairs of Peter Owen-Jackson, a former tied agent of Albany Life, who had his assets frozen in the High Court this week.

GUS payout up

Great Universal Stores, the mail order, Burberry and Scotch House group, raised pre-tax profits from £400.2 million to £417.3 million in the year to end-March. Turnover was £2.69 billion (£2.63 billion). The final dividend is 23.5p (21.5p), making a total of 34.5p (31.5p).

Tempos, page 27

P & P cash call

P&P, the computer services group, is to raise £27 million in a three-for-eight rights issue at 185p to eliminate £20 million of borrowings and fund expansion in Europe. In the six months to end-May, pre-tax profits rose 37 per cent to £6.8 million. The interim payout is 1.25p (1.1p).

Tempos, page 27

Clark rises 13%

Matthew Clark and Sons (Holdings), distributor of wines and spirits, reported taxable profits up 13.1 per cent at £9.5 million for the year to end-April. The final dividend is 7.75p, making a total of 13.5p (13p).

Tempos, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8155 (-0.0050)
W German mark 2.9807 (-0.0122)
Exchange index 94.0 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1886.7 (-11.9)
FT-SE 100 2387.3 (-14.7)
New York Dow Jones 2867.08 (-14.60)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 3305.62 (+7.51)
Closing Prices ... Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 14.75%
3-month eligible bills 14.75%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.54-7.52%
30-year bonds 102.102

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.8155
DM £2.9807
Sfr £2.5571
FF £10.0007
Yen £168.42
Indr £84.0
Cru £64.330
ECU £4.0237

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$361.55 pm \$362.30
close \$362.25-362.75 (£199.50 200.00)
New York: Comex \$362.10-362.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$18.05/bbl (\$18.05)
* Denotes latest trading price

OILSTOCKS

	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	24.15	24.15
Austria \$	21.80	21.80
Belgium \$	64.30	64.30
Canada \$	2.18	2.18
Denmark \$	7.28	7.28
Finland \$	10.20	10.20
France \$	2.08	2.08
Germany \$	14.70	14.70
Greece \$	22.6	22.6
Ireland \$	22.6	22.6
Italy \$	22.6	22.6
Japan \$	22.6	22.6
Netherlands \$	22.6	22.6
Portugal \$	22.6	22.6
Spain \$	22.6	22.6
Sweden \$	22.6	22.6
Switzerland \$	22.6	22.6
Turkey \$	22.6	22.6
USA \$	22.6	22.6
Yugoslavia \$	22.6	22.6

Prices for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

Offer to resign is last hope for Alan Bond

By ANGELA MACKAY

ALAN Bond, the Australian businessman, has offered to resign as chairman of Bond Corp and surrender control of the flagship company he built from scratch.

The offer came in package of sweeteners aimed at inducing holders of Bond Corp convertible bonds to approve the sale of Bond Brewing to Bell Resources, another arm of the Bond empire, and agree to a one-year moratorium on interest payments.

Bond Corp executives contend the two proposals will buy the embattled group more time to cut its crippling debt burden by finishing half-completed deals to sell assets.

Bondholders of two issues with a combined value of \$US340 million met yesterday at Bond Corp's offices in Northumberland Avenue and agreed to adjourn the meeting until August 9. They had already planned to meet then to decide whether to appoint a committee to monitor Bond Corp's management.

If bondholders vote to approve the two proposals, Mr Bond said he would resign within 30 days. He also promised to surrender control of Bond Corp's board by reducing Dullhold Investments' voting rights to 25 per cent and restricting the number of Bond board nominees to a minority. At the moment Dullhold, Mr Bond's family company, owns 58 per cent of Bond Corp.

"The proposed changes have been under consideration for some time, and our commitment to the bondholders to implement these changes within 30 days of their approving the brewery sale and the interest moratorium should confirm in people's minds our dedication to do everything necessary to restore full value to Bond Corp," Mr Bond said.

After reading his statement to the first meeting of bondholders, Mr Bond left the meeting. Symbolising his new mood of appeasement, Mr

Bond refused to sit on the podium, and sat in the audience.

Insiders at the meeting said Swiss Bank Corp (SBC) had played a pivotal role in forcing Mr Bond's hand. The bank told Mr Bond and his executives that if it was faced with a choice on previous terms, they would vote against the resolutions.

Significantly, a representative of SBC moved yesterday that the meetings be adjourned until August.

Bond Corp is also expected to offer bondholders preference shares which, if converted, will give bondholders control of Bond Corp.

For the first resolution on the sale of the brewing assets, Bond Corp needs a 75 per cent majority from holders of half the issues by value while for the coupon waiver, a 66 per cent quorum must give a 75 per cent approval.

About 25 bondholders attended yesterday's meeting representing some 75 per cent of the bonds on issue, according to Peter Lucas, a Bond Corp director.

American creditors of Bond Brewing Holdings have ordered legal proceedings to begin in Australia against Mr Alan Bond and two BBH directors, declaring them personally liable for repayment of more than Aus\$646 million (£281 million) worth of debentures (Brian Buchanan writes from Sydney).



Bond: taking back seat

Comment, page 27

Earnings accelerate as credit growth slows

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

MIXED data on the economy released by the government and the Bank of England yesterday showed credit growing less than expected, but the rise in average earnings accelerating.

Bank and building society lending rose by £6.9 billion, seasonally adjusted, slightly lower than the average of £7.1 billion for the previous six months and well below the £9.2 billion recorded in March, which was the last month in which banks levied quarterly interest charges.

Year-on-year growth in the broad definition of the money supply, M4, fell from 17.1 per cent to 16.8 per cent. Growth in the narrow definition of the money supply, M0, fell from 6.9 per cent to 6.5 per cent, still above the government's target range of 1-5 per cent.

The Treasury said the money supply and credit figures gave a clear indication of a slowdown in the economy as a result of maintaining firm monetary policy.

Average earnings growth accelerated to an annual 9.75 per cent in May despite a

continued increase in seasonally-adjusted unemployment, according to labour market figures issued yesterday. Unemployment rose 5,600 to 1,617,000 last month, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 5.7 per cent.

The employment department data provoked concern that the counter-inflationary squeeze has not yet produced a rapid enough rise in unemployment to exert sufficient downward pressure on pay settlements. Michael Howard, employment secretary, warned pay bargainers that jobs would not survive unless settlements took account of the long-term competitive position of firms and the economic climate. But he voiced confidence that the present rise in unemployment was consistent with the chancellor's goal of lower inflation and maintaining employment long-term.

The rise in male unemployment, mainly in the Southeast, exceeded the overall rise, but was partly offset by a fall in female unemployment. The June rise was the third

successive monthly increase. Unadjusted figures showed unemployment dropping by 22,917 in June to 1,555,610.

Although employment department estimates point to an upward trend of about 5,000 a month, the odd fall in the months ahead is not ruled out.

Gwynn Hachce, UK economist at James Capel, said the figures gave "no real sign of acceleration in unemployment." With unit wage costs running at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of over 10 per cent in the first quarter, he said the jobless increase was not rising enough to have an impact on pay.

Underlying average earnings grew by an annual 9.75 per cent in May, the latest month available, unchanged from April, which had been revised up from 9.5 per cent.

In manufacturing, unit wage costs in the three months to May rose an annual 7.1 per cent, providing an encouraging slowdown from 7.6 per cent in the three months to April.

Comment, page 27

Pact leaves little scope for extra public spending

Cabinet safeguards £192.3bn target

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE cabinet yesterday set the scene for the toughest public spending round of recent years by agreeing to stick as closely as possible to existing plans.

This leaves little scope for increased spending despite the rise in inflation and the political pressures of a pre-election spending round. Ministers agreed to stick to the target figure of £192.3 billion set out in last autumn's public expenditure white paper. This target would result in public spending at a level of 39.5 per cent of gross domestic product.

The overbidding of about £15 million by spending departments was not discussed at the meeting, nor were any individual departmental claims discussed in detail.

John Major, the chancellor, who

issued a warning to backbenchers this week that there was no "pot of gold" available for tax cuts next year and that he would not be planning any pre-election "boomlet", was said to have reiterated his determination to get a grip on inflation and to keep down public expenditure as a proportion of gdp. The prime minister endorsed Mr Major's recent warning that he had limited room for manoeuvre.

Ministers also accepted that the increase in public sector funds to sweeten the poll tax would leave less for other programmes. By adding nearly £3 billion to funding for local authorities, the government has effectively used up the scope for allocating the reserve to other programmes. Despite the difficulties, departments have made bids for extra

spending running well into double figures in billions of pounds. Among the biggest bids are those for health, social security, education and transport. Demand for higher provision for public sector pay runs across all departments.

The formula adopted by cabinet yesterday leaves a loophole for raising cash spending. The government will stick as closely as possible to the existing planning totals, with the aim of keeping the ratio of general government spending, excluding privatisation proceeds, on a downward trend in relation to the economy. Because higher inflation will increase the size of the economy in money terms, a proportionate increase in public spending, perhaps worth about £4 billion, will be possible without disturbing the ratio.

Ferranti reports £161.7m loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

FERRANTI International, the defence and electronics group, reported pre-tax losses of £161.7 million for 1989-90 after exceptional charges of £122.3 million yesterday and warned shareholders not to expect a dividend before December 1991.

Eugene Anderson, the chairman and chief executive, also unveiled a refinancing package pegged on a £46.8 million rights issue and said an announcement will be made soon on further rationalisation and redundancies. Ferranti will make 20 per cent of its 12,500 international workforce redundant over the next year, he said.

Ferranti is undergoing rationalisation after discovering a defence contract fraud in ISC, its American subsidiary, which left a £215 million hole in its assets. The company has obtained damages judgments of several hundred million dollars against former senior management, including James Guerini. Ferranti's former deputy chairman, in the British courts and is trying to have them enforced in America.

Ferranti is now divided into three divisions: aerospace, strategic management and commercial and industrial. "We have cleared the stable out, but it is nice to know there is still a racehorse in there," Mr Anderson said.

The company, which had a fall in turnover from £927 million to £795 million, sold £400 million of assets over the past eight months to satisfy bankers' demands, but is still short of cash.

As a result, Mr Anderson said the company will be selling assets including all or part of its 64 per cent stake in Zephonite to generate cash. But he stressed the new plans leave the company cash-positive for 1991, 1992 and 1993.

A syndicate of 27 banks led by National Westminster signed new facilities on Wednesday, leaving the firm with net borrowings of £75 million, against £110 million at the year-end, and access to £70 million of new advances and overdrafts. The one for four rights issue, arranged by Barings, is fully underwritten by more than 10 institutions.

Analysts said that while the worst is over, Ferranti still has several problems, particularly its dependence on defence sales. "The strategic management division is the only one in profit and there is still too great a dependence on defence," Patrick Wellington of County NatWest said.

Mr Anderson said 58 per cent of the company's turnover is from defence contracts. About half of £600 million of ongoing turnover comes from defence contracts with the Ministry of Defence, the American government and a UAE missile contract.



Eugene Anderson, the Ferranti chairman yesterday

Industrial aid in UK under fire

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has ordered Britain and three other countries to scrap large industrial aid because it distorts competition.

Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, has given the governments of Britain, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands five months to abolish laws authorising general investment aids. He said these undermined the effect of regional aid and ran counter to regional development policy, an important EC objective.

Britain has been ordered to halt Section 8 of the 1982 Industrial Development Act. So far, about £1.9 billion has been paid out or pledged in general aid to industry. Promises can be honoured, but no new money can be made available after December 31.

Sir Leon's move toughens his campaign against state aid by banning existing industrial development schemes as well as new proposals. A spokesman said the four schemes were singled out because they were the most blatant examples of indiscriminate aid, distorting competition and reducing the impact of aids targeted to particular sectors or regions. Other countries with similar schemes will be ordered to halt such aids as Sir Leon's review gathers pace.

He insisted that under the Treaty of Rome he was empowered to introduce such retroactive measures. Article 93 allowed Brussels to review all existing state aids and ban those which had been permitted but were now incompatible with developments.

Comment, page 27

STC shares soar with Fujitsu move on ICL

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK and WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

SHARES in STC soared 24p to 281p after Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer manufacturer, revealed it was poised to take a majority stake in the STC subsidiary ICL, Britain's largest mainframe computer maker.

The deal, which will be announced with STC's interim results in two weeks time, is expected to value ICL at between £1.1 billion and £1.5 billion.

It is expected Fujitsu will take a stake in ICL of at least 50 to 60 per cent, with STC remaining as a minority shareholder.

Reports from Tokyo suggesting Fujitsu is willing to pay 180 billion yen (£670 million) for close to 80 per cent make initial City valuations appear overly optimistic.

On yesterday's close, STC would be valued at about £1.6 billion, with ICL accounting for £1 billion of the value. But analysts believe STC as a whole could command well over £3 a share.

Fujitsu's move, which follows last month's takeover of Britain's Apricot computer business by Mitsubishi, marks an increasing trend by Japanese companies to take a major role in Europe in the lead-up to 1992. The deal is sure to spark a political row.

Leading article, page 15

Ostamarting rivals, page 27

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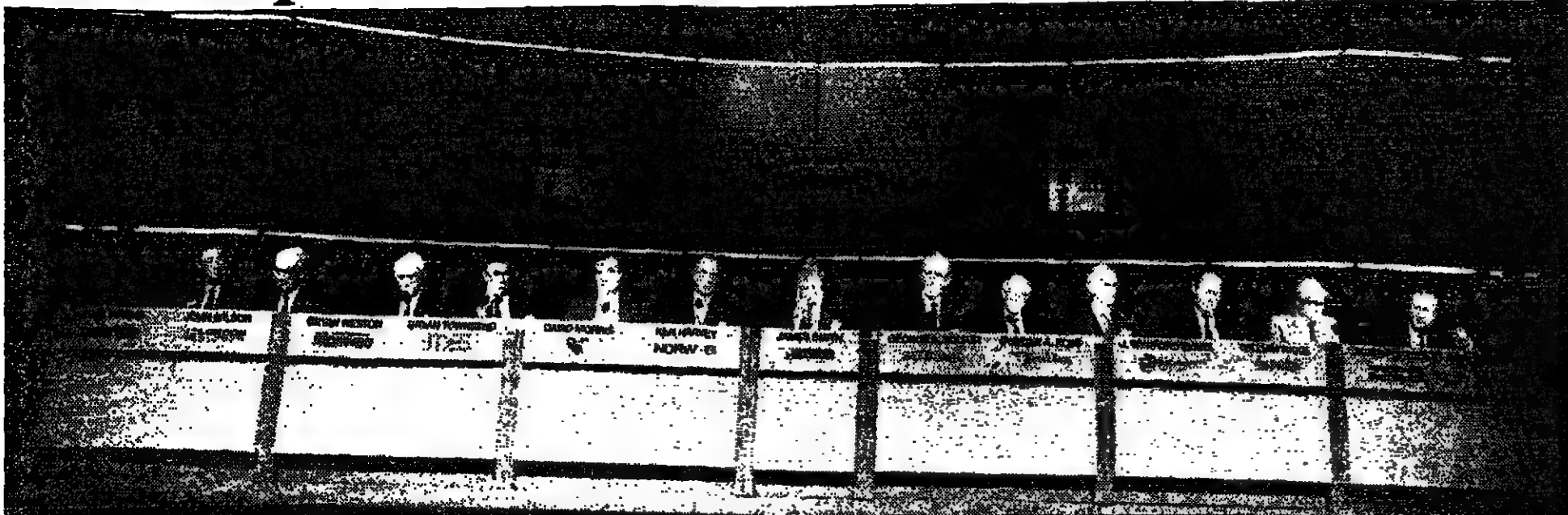
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Power profits static in run-up to privatisation



Power line: the heads of the 12 distribution companies deliver the results of their last year under government ownership at the Park Lane Hotel, London, yesterday

THE 12 regional electricity distribution companies have reported flat performances for the 1989-90 financial year, their last under government ownership.

On a historical cost basis, operating profits before interest from all 12 companies rose just 2 per cent to £819 million. An elaborate presentation at the Park Lane Hotel in London prompted only a handful of questions from analysts, which were followed by an "embarrassing silence," according to one analyst. He added that the accounts were a historical statement, but of little relevance to how the 12 companies will present their

accounts in future. The City is assuming that profits have partly been held back by undisclosed provisions for bad debts and similar items which have been tucked away for the future. One analyst said he suspected there had been "a lot of prudent accounting".

But there was some surprise at the healthy profits from the National Grid Company, which is jointly owned by the 12 companies. The NGC made operating profits of £426.5 million on a historical cost basis. One analyst said this was "an extremely attractive set of figures", but noted that there were no comparisons. He thought the im-

HOW THE TWELVE MEASURE UP

	Turnover £m	Historic cost operating profit £m	Target return of return (%)	Actual rate of return (%)
Eastern	1.8	107	4.75	4.30
East Midlands	1.3	75	4.75	4.44
London	1.1	76	4.75	4.05
Merseyside	0.9	47	4.00	3.50
Midlands	1.3	78	4.75	4.00
Northern	0.8	45	4.35	3.60
Norweb	1.2	71	4.75	4.01
Seaboard	1.0	49	4.75	2.96
Southern	1.5	85	4.75	4.35
South Wales	0.6	21	3.90	1.00
S Western	0.7	53	4.75	4.76
Yorkshire	1.3	94	4.25	5.86

portance of the National Grid to the whole operation had been underestimated.

The government is today likely to finalise negotiations with Yorkshire and London

Electricity, the two companies that are still holding out over the amount of debt to be injected on privatisation. A formal announcement is due early next week. The 12

companies say the negotiations and the outcome were "hard but fair".

Duncan Rose, the chairman of Southern, said: "The basis on which we are going to enter the new world seems to me a fair and reasonable one, and does give us flexibility."

James Smith, the chairman of Eastern and the spokesman for all 12 companies at the presentation, blamed the flat profits on the mild winter, the need to repair storm damage, and the costs incurred in the run-up to privatisation. He refused to be drawn on prospects for the current year. Asked about a gloomy City forecast of an increase in unit sales of just 1.5 per cent, he

said: "That's an opinion that anyone is free to have."

For the Labour party at least, the figures were a "rip-off". Focusing on the current cost pre-tax line, including interest earned which would not be forthcoming post-privatisation, Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, said the 17 per cent increase shown did not justify a 9.5 per cent rise in prices.

He added: "Equally scandalous is the way electricity users' money has been poured into the pockets of City advisers. Between them, the area boards and the grid company paid out £30 million, and there's more to come this year."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Midland Bank debt downgraded by S&P

STANDARD & Poor's, the rating agency, has downgraded \$3.1 billion of Midland Bank's debt, blaming a downturn in major areas of its financial performance. The agency, whose ratings are closely watched by international bond dealers and investors, reduced the bank's long-term rating from AA- to A+, and its subordinated debt from A+ to A.

The agency said the move was caused by the downturn in profits at Midland and that "prospects for recovery in 1990 are unlikely given current market pressures." Midland lost £261 million last year due to Third World debt provisions, and issued a warning in March that its half-year operating profits would not match last year's. S&P also highlighted Midland's capital adequacy ratios and its level of provisioning against Third World debt, which, it said, "are well below most peers".

Zetters rises to £1.12m

PRE-TAX profits at Zetters Group, the football pools company, advanced by 45 per cent to £1.12 million in the year to end-March. The previous year's result was depressed by the effects of the 1988 postal strike. Turnover grew 7 per cent to £25.6 million. Earnings per share rose from 7.2p to 10.2p. The final dividend is improved to 5.25p (4.5p), making a total of 7p (6p). The share price eased 2p to 140p.

Lasmo buys oil assets

LASMO confirmed the acquisition of Placid Oil (UK), which holds a 22.97 per cent interest in North Sea block 16/12A, for about £20 million. Lasmo is also acquiring Occidental's 26.74 per cent stake in the block in return for interests which include a stake in the Chatter field. The deals take Lasmo's share of block 16/12A, which includes the Birch, North Birch and Elm fields, to 58.85 per cent.

Reckitt in £60m sale

RECKITT & Coleman, the household products, food and pharmaceuticals group, is selling its Fine Art & Graphics division to AB Wilb Becker, a privately-owned Swedish decorative and industrial coatings group, for £60 million, including payment of inter-company debt.

The division, which includes the Winsor & Newton, Reeves and Dryad brand names, made pre-tax profits of £4.9 million on sales of £34.6 million in 1989. The sale proceeds will be used to help reduce the borrowings taken on by Reckitt & Coleman to finance its £762 million acquisition of Boyle-Midway, the American household goods manufacturer.

Peter Walker joins Dalgety

FORMER cabinet minister Peter Walker, who as a former energy secretary came under fire for taking a seat on British Gas's board last month, has accepted another directorship linked to his government career. Mr Walker, who was agricultural minister from 1979 to 1983 and left the cabinet as Welsh secretary in March, is to be non-executive director of Dalgety, the farm products and food group.

Tribune lifts revenue 14%

NET asset value at Tribune Investment Trust climbed from 269.6p to 278.6p a share in the six months to end-June, though it remained short of its end-1989 level of 294.1p. Pre-tax revenue advanced 14 per cent to £2.79 million. Gross revenue increased 14 per cent to £3.9 million. Earnings per share rose from 3.49p to 3.87p. The interim dividend has been improved to 1.7p, against 1.55p last time.

GWR profits drop

GWR Group, the West Country independent local radio contractor, has imposed a "black box" from America which it expects to save it millions of pounds in labour costs. The system, which awaits IBA approval, will allow the company to use just one DJ across its five-station network with pre-recorded local advertisements, news, traffic and weather. GWR reported a fall in pre-tax profits from £799,315 to £454,407 for the six months to end-March due to an industry-wide drop in advertising revenue. The company said advertising revenue, which was down 6 per cent, is now recovering. GWR's earnings per share are almost halved from 18.8p to 9.9p. The interim dividend is unchanged at 3p.

BAA to take over ownership of de Savary airport

By OUR CITY STAFF

PETER de Savary, the property and shipping services entrepreneur, has sold part of a joint venture with London & Edinburgh Trust to give BAA, the airport operator, ownership of Southampton Eastleigh Airport.

Airports UK, BAA's subsidiary, has built up traffic at Southampton over the past six years and plans to spend about £20 million on a new terminal to double passenger capacity.

BAA had been operating on a lease. Now, for an undisclosed sum, BAA has the freehold of the airport, including its single runway and existing elderly terminal buildings. These will be replaced by the new terminal and other facilities will be upgraded.

It is believed the deal with the de Savary partnership is worth more than £15 million.

The partnership retains land where there is planning permission for a business park and commercial development. More than 40 acres adjacent to the airport is involved in this development.

When the business park and commercial development was first mooted it was suggested it would involve spending about £300 million and that almost 4,000 jobs could be created.

The airport, the main gateway for flights to the Channel Islands, is one of Britain's fastest-growing regional airports. Its main catchment area is the Hampshire region.

The deal brings to eight the number of airports both owned and operated by BAA. The others are at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted in the southeast, plus ones at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Aberdeen.

Macarthy profits fall to £2.39m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

MACARTHY, the pharmaceutical wholesaler and chemist, reports a drop in pre-tax profits from £4.26 million to £2.39 million in the six months to end-June, on sales down 2 per cent to £166.7 million.

The company said the results were affected by increased interest costs, continued losses in the veterinary wholesale business and implementation of a rationalisation programme on the manufacturing side.

Redundancy costs led to exceptional losses of £142,000. Manufacturing and agency operating profits slipped from £1.41 million to £1.33 million and wholesale division profits fell from £805,000 to £577,000.

Group interest payments jumped by 45 per cent to £1.67 million, with gearing at about 80 per cent. Eps fell from 10.3p to 6.2p. The interim dividend is maintained at 5p.

Northeast investment firm ordered to cease trading

By JON ASHWORTH

HERRINGTON Financial Services, a Newcastle investment firm with £10 million on its books, has been ordered to cease trading following growing concern about its investment activities.

The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation issued the order yesterday and has appointed trustees to protect client assets.

The move follows the suspension of Lovell & Co, the Newcastle stockbroker, which was ordered to cease trading last month after the discovery of a shortfall in the firm's capital.

The Securities Association went on to suspend Richard Hexton, an investment adviser at Lovell, for breaching the conditions of his securities registration.

Herrington was recently sold to Gainscap, a company owned by directors of Lovell. John Morgan, chief executive of Imro, said there had

been concern about Herrington's connection with Lovell.

He said there was no reason to believe that any client money had gone missing, but Imro was concerned about the nature of investments made by the company.

The choice of two or three shares in particular had given cause for alarm.

Edward Kempka and Gordon Goldie of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte have been appointed joint trustees of the company's assets. Mr Kempka is also trustee of client assets.

Herrington has between 500 and 600 investors, mainly in the Northeast. The size of their portfolios ranges from £2,000 to more than £100,000, with an average investment of £18,000.

About £4.2 million of funds under management is invested in broker bonds controlled by Royal Life, Royal

Heritage, and Providence Capital. Responsibility for the management of the bonds is being returned to the respective life offices. A further £5.8 million is in discretionary funds.

Mr Kempka said: "The trustees are hopeful of finding client funds intact, however some of the company's investments may be difficult to realise. Our powers as trustees are limited to preserving and protecting the company assets and client funds."

"These powers do not extend to distributing company or client funds, therefore this appointment effectively places a temporary freeze upon withdrawals by investors."

A letter will be sent to clients by the trustee explaining where they stand.

A meeting of investors will be held in Newcastle on July 30 when more details are expected.

Benchmark to close stockbroker

BENCHMARK, the leasing and property lending group, has confirmed it is closing Chariton Seal Schaverien, its stockbroking division, and is in talks to transfer part of the business to two brokers, Wise Speke and Charles Stanley.

The group hoped more than half of Chariton's employees would find jobs at the other brokers. Chariton Seal went £140,000 into the red in the six months to last December.

Benchmark will now concentrate on agricultural equipment leasing and residential property lending.

Administrators called in at Parkfield Group

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PARKFIELD Group, the manufacturing and entertainment group, was yesterday granted an administration order "in order to protect the integrity of its businesses".

Michael Jordan, Adrian Stanway and Malcolm London, of Cork Gully, have been appointed joint administrators by the court.

They will work with the board to set up separate subsidiary limited companies to carry on the various businesses of the group's existing

German bank groups merge

A MERGER between Bayerische Vereinsbank of Munich and the Verein und Westbank of Hamburg has created West Germany's third largest banking group with assets of DM195 billion. Bayerische has taken a majority stake in Westbank, leading to greater co-operation between the two. The Munich bank had a 25.4 per cent stake in Westbank.

Sanwa reshuffle

Sanwa, the world's fifth largest bank, is reorganising its London division by merging its subsidiaries, Associated Japanese Bank and Sanwa International. The group will carry out securities and banking operations and act as a base to expand into the European Community.

Tiphook sale

Tiphook, the transport and distribution group, has sold its Tiphook Sideroad subsidiary, which is involved in renting steel stores and offices, to Darchem Building Services for £2.9 million. Darchem is owned by a Darlington-based engineering group of the same name.

BTG 'fit for state sell-off'

A RISE of 26 per cent in pre-tax profits at British Technology Group, a world leader in the intellectual property market, underlined the group's "fitness" for privatisation, Colin Barker, chairman, said yesterday. Group profits surged to £9.5 million in the year to end-March on turnover of £29.5 million, up 24 per cent. Mr Barker is hoping

for a privatisation commitment in the Queen's Speech for the next session of Parliament. BTG believes that business opportunities in several emerging markets could be put at risk by continuing state ownership.

Ian Harvey, group chief executive, said that a promising licensing agreement with a French research establishment

had been undermined by political sensitivities surrounding government control of BTG. A planned technology transfer joint venture in Spain had foundered recently on similar grounds.

Mr Harvey said the situation could become increasingly difficult as BTG attempted to expand into overseas markets.

COMPANY BRIEFS

AB CONSULTANTS (Ltd)
Pre-tax: £2.47m (£1.68m)
EPS: 20.7p (17.0p)
Div: 4.2m (3.4p)

BRASWAY (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.71m (£3.66m)
EPS: 2.33p (3.27p)
Div: 0.54p (0.78p)

DRAYTON FAR EAST
Pre-tax: £0.44m (£0.63m)
EPS: 0.195p (0.306p)
Div: 0.125p (0.125p)

OCEANA INV. CORP. (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.44m (£0.47m)
EPS: 0.195p (0.306p)
Div: 0.125p (0.125p)

ELSIER (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.18m (£0.51m)
EPS: 0.92p (2.70p)
Div: 0.465p (0.846p)

TEMPLETON EMERGING
Pre-tax: £0.85m (£0.44m)
EPS: 2.50p
Div: 0.7p

HEYTON HOLDINGS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.51m (£2.1m)
EPS: 9.09p (8.88p)
Div: 1.35p (1.1p)

THROGMORTON USM (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.59m (£0.63m)
EPS: 2.4p (1.9p)
Div: none

NORRAIN ELECTRONICS
Pre-tax: £0.25m (£0.12m)
EPS: 2.4p (0.9p)
Div: 0.7p (0.7p)

Final results. Turnover increased by 40 per cent to £12.8m. The company said it is continuing to grow despite a softer construction industry.

Last year's total dividend was 0.763p. Turnover rose 10 per cent to £47m. Interest costs jumped to £986,000 (£248,000).

Interim results. The net asset value slipped to 125.9p (143.7p). Gross income increased from £1.05m to £1.17m.

The net asset value advanced by 20 per cent to 233.1p (244.8p), largely due to the profit on the sale of the investment in Aquascutum Group.

Last year's total dividend was 1.925p. The company said profits were lower because of a smaller contribution from Christmas trade.

Final results. In addition, there is a special dividend of 0.9p, making a total of 1.6p. The net asset value rose by 29.5 per cent to 127.53p.

Figures in Irish currency. Turnover grew 20 per cent to £55.2m. There was an exceptional credit of £750,000.

The net asset value slipped to 139.8p (188.9p) a share. Gross income climbed to £782,000 (£757,000).

Final results. Fully diluted earnings per share rose to 2.3p (0.88p). Turnover slipped to £11m (£11.6m). Extraordinary credit of £110,000.

DEWHURST (Int)
Pre-tax: £0.55m (£0.40m)
EPS: 3.2p (2.27p)
Div: 0.60p (0.47p)

STYMONDS ENG (Fin)
Pre-tax: £0.56m (£0.20m)
EPS: 3.823p (1.273p)
Div: 0.8p (1.25p) (1p)

PARK FOOD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.03m (£3.04m)
EPS: 16.46p (16.46p)
Div: 4.35p (4.35p)

ELANDSAND GOLD
Pre-tax: £37.8m (£32.1m)
EPS: 38p (33p)
Div: 15c

SOUTHAVAL HOLDINGS
Pre-tax: £83.5m (£142.9m)
EPS: 181c (275c)
Div: 180c

VAAL REEFS
Pre-tax: £141.8m (£146m)
EPS: 167c (181c)
Div: 485c

WESTERN DEEP LEVELS
Pre-tax: £78.6m (£37.4m)
EPS: 77c (84c)
Div: 180c

SA LAND
Pre-tax: £11.22m (£1.39m)
EPS: 9c (12c)
Div: 20c

MULTITONE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.77m
EPS: 2.9p (2.3c loss)
Div: 1.0p (0.1p)

Group turnover advanced by 30 per cent to £4.12m. The company said that record full-year results are still expected.

Group turnover was ahead by 20 per cent to £6.04m. There was an extraordinary credit of £54,702.

Last year's total dividend was 6.3p. Turnover edged up to £107.9m (£106.1m). There is an extraordinary credit of £49,000.

Figures are for quarter to end-June. Eps are before appropriation for capital expenditure. Turnover up to £110.7m (£102.8m).

Interim results. Total income fell to £95.4m (£144.8m). Tax stood at £46.4m (£71.5m).

Figures are for quarter to end-June. Turnover slipped to £613.6m (£616.8m).

Figures are for quarter to end-June. Turnover slipped to £298.2m (£312.7m).

Figures are for quarter to end-June. Turnover slipped to £12.3m (£12.5m).

Pre-tax loss last time was £249,000. Company intends to return to interim payments in the current financial year.

British Gas Advises its Long Period Interruptible Contract Customers of Price Reductions.

With effect from July 1990, British Gas will apply the following revised Scheduled Reference Prices to Table 5 incorporated within Schedule F13 and Table B incorporated within Schedule CSP2. All other conditions within the Schedule remain the same.

TABLE 5 SCHEDULE F13 LONG PERIOD INTERRUPTIBLE - SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE								
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	200,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 2,000,000	2,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	10,000,001 to 25,000,000	25,000,001 to 50,000,000	Greater than 50,000,000
MONTHLY CHARGE (£)	760	1583	3176	4509	7009	7842	9925	9925
NUMBER OF PREMISES	PRICE PER THERM (p)							
1	21.50	19.50	17.50	16.50	16.20	16.10	16.00	16.00
2	22.50	20.50	18.50	17.50	17.20	17.10	17.00	17.00
3	-	21.50	19.50	18.50	18.20	18.10	18.00	18.00
4-5	-	22.50	20.50	19.50	19.20	19.10	19.00	19.00
6-10	-	-	21.50	20.50	20.20	20.10	20.00	20.00
11-20	-	-	-	21.50	21.20	21.10	21.00	21.00
21-50	-	-	-	22.50	22.20	22.10	22.00	22.00
51-100	-	-	-	-	-	23.10	23.00	23.00
101-500	-	-	-	-	-	24.10	24.00	24.00
501-1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.00
1001-2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26.00

TABLE B SCHEDULE CSP2 INTERRUPTIBLE GAS - SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE P/THERM						
VOLUME BAND	1	2	3	4	5	6
NOMINATED CONSUMPTION THERMS/ANNUUM	250,001 to 500,000	500,001 to 1,000,000	1,000,001 to 2,000,000	2,000,001 to 5,000,000	5,000,001 to 10,000,000	Greater than 10,000,000
SHORT PERIOD	29.75	29.00	27.50	26.00	24.75	23.50

Bond puts his head on the plate

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Tiny Rowland probably allowed himself a small sherry last night, as the wires ticked off the line "Bond offers to give up control". The man who tried to topple Tiny was finally toppling himself. The problems of Bond Corporation were undeniably of Alan Bond's own making, but their exposure by Lorrho contributed to the loss of confidence among the bankers, and once bankers get the jitters, the end is in sight.

But the Bond saga has some reels to run yet. The meetings which could have ended it all were adjourned yesterday, and by the time they are reconvened next month, the situation could have changed yet again. That said, Mr Bond seems to be making the bondholders an offer they may not find hard to refuse. The bondholders more than any other creditors hold immediate and undisputed right of life over the corporation, and without their agreement, it is difficult to see how Bond could be kept from the knacker's yard. The only alternative for Bond would be to refinance the debt, which is about as likely as snowballs on Bondi

beach in December. The bondholders, led by Swiss Bank Corporation, are now pushing hard, and it seems unlikely they will meekly agree to a one-year moratorium on interest payments and a reconstruction plan without a financial gain at the far end. Yes, they welcome the proposed appointment of a new chief executive and sure, they would love to see the power of Dallhold, Mr Bond's master company, restricted in both voting power and the number of nominees it can pack on to the board. And it is beyond question that Bond needs a corporate restructuring.

But the sight of Alan Bond's head on a platter is unlikely to be enough to satisfy the bondholders, and nobody knows this better than Alan Bond. He is thought to have a number of additional incentives up his sleeves, including a preference share issue which would eventually give them the loudest shout in Bond Corp. At the same time,

the bondholders would be wise to insist on their own nominee sitting at the boardroom table, looking after their interests, while the reconstruction is carried through. These add-ons to the basic package will be wheeled out as negotiations proceed over the next few weeks.

Slowing down

Bank and building society lending rose last month by £6.9 billion which for a month in which banks levy their quarterly charges on customers was substantially lower than expected, and below the increases of £9.2 billion in March, £10.7 billion in Dec-

ember and £10.4 billion in September, the other charging months.

The lower rise in lending is reflected in the broad measure of money, M4, which rose 2 per cent last month and 16.8 per cent on the year, down from 17.1 per cent the previous month. The narrow measure, M0, also grew more slowly at 6.5 per cent against 6.9 per cent the previous month. Weekly data so far suggest there may be another fall in July to below 6 per cent.

With M0 still growing outside the 1-5 per cent target range the monetary statistics have a long way to go before the government can claim victory. Meanwhile, average earnings are accelerating and unit costs rising. But,

coupled with the steep drop in retail sales last month and the continued rise in unemployment, the signs of slowdown are multiplying.

Minor affair

Britain considers itself a free market operator in a European Community where others, such as France, are assumed to give massive aid and protection in the greater cause of building French-based multinationals at whatever cost. Inevitably, it comes as an affront, therefore, for Britain to be singled out, along with free market Holland, as giving unfair aid to industry that distorts European markets.

Section 8 of the Industry Act 1982 certainly gives that in theory, though it has not been used for that purpose by government. Ever since it was enacted, the catch-all clause,

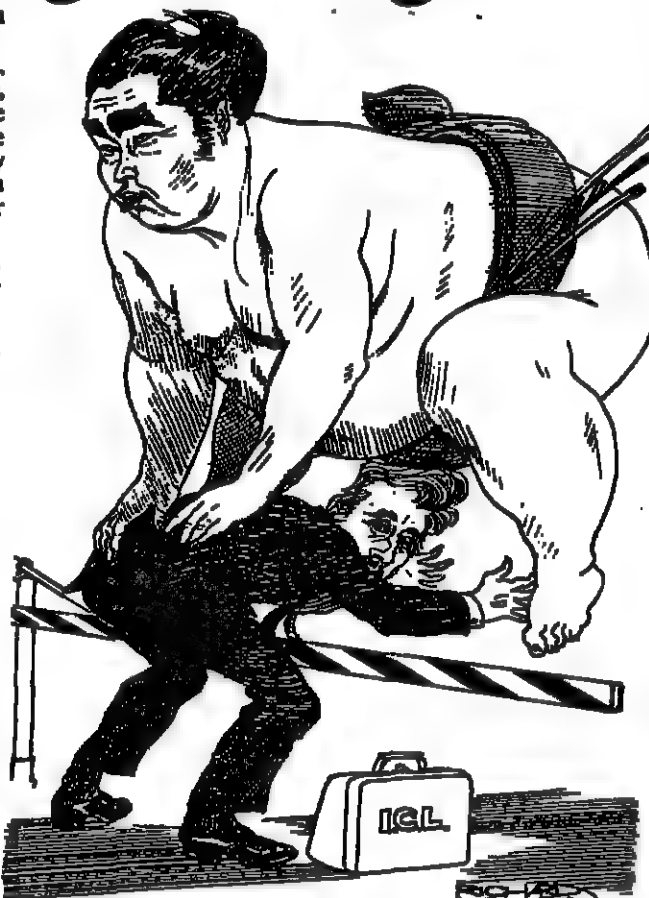
which gives the DTI a wide brief to make selective aid to industry for modernisation and development, has been an embarrassment. The clause is there, and has stayed, because it has been a convenience, allowing ministers to make assistance in a highly selective and therefore less costly way for anything from International Computers to guaranteeing bank loans to small firms. As Sir Leon Britan is well aware, £9.5 million was also used to a minor extent in the sale of Rover to British Aerospace, which was an affront to Brussels.

The immediate reaction from Whitehall was that Brussels had misunderstood the legislation. This is entirely possible, although Sir Leon, in his former role as trade secretary, was once charged with operating it.

In practice, the section has been used less and less to aid the private sector. Last year, the biggest item was £13.5 million to keep a Cornish tin mine open.

If Sir Leon insists on banning it, the government will be sympathetic to his thinking but could be faced with some rethinking.

Fujitsu aims to outsmart its rivals by grabbing ICL



British firm. Fujitsu will be the second Japanese electronics group to vault into the British computer market this year.

In May, Mitsubishi Electric bought the manufacturing operations of Apricot, the personal computer maker. The Fujitsu deal will be the largest buyout of a computer maker by a Japanese company. Fujitsu looks like facing an easier

STC, its parent company, has been scouting for a partner for ICL for several months. He wants to share the financial burden of research and development necessary to stay ahead in the computer business. Fujitsu has had close dealings with ICL for almost a decade, supplying the British company with technology and microchips, making it the most likely partner, Mr Walsh has been known to favour a Japanese ally.

Fujitsu will be keen to secure control of one of its main customers, a common and cosy business structure in Japan, although a relationship that fires the anger of some outsiders. Toyota's similar control over Koito, the Japanese car parts maker in which T Boone Pickens has a 26 per cent stake has infuriated the Texas oil tycoon, who is struggling to get into Koito's boardroom. Fujitsu also gets a platform in frontier-free Europe. It is likely to use ICL as a production and sales base for Europe. The buyout will also prevent technology given by Fujitsu to ICL from draining to Fujitsu's rivals. Fujitsu was apparently worried that ICL might fall to one of its Tokyo competitors.

However, Fujitsu may also find that it is given a chilly reception in meetings where ICL has been welcomed, since much of the cooperation between European and American computer companies has been driven by a fear of Japanese competition in an industry in which Japanese computer firms are among the world's biggest and healthiest.

Only IBM and Digital are larger than Fujitsu, which notched up sales of ¥2,550 billion in 1989. But Fujitsu, which is breaking new ground in several areas, from industrial robots and computers to microchips that imitate the human brain, has set its heart on becoming the leader of the pack. Japanese companies also have a reputation for guarding their markets. Japan is the only country in which IBM competes and has had to take second place to a local company: Fujitsu.

Joe Joseph

Solid GUS soldiers on

Great Universal Stores (GUS) would do its City image a power of good if it were seen to be adventurous.

For the 36th successive year, GUS marched forward in the 12 months ended March, with pre-tax profits up from £400.2 million to £417.3 million (or stripped clean of property profits, from £392 million to £406.9 million).

The dividend rises again, with a final of 23.5p a share, against 21.5p, making 34.5p (31.5p), although shareholders must think their cheques are coming by fourth-class post. The dividend is payable on December 20.

But with apron strings so closely tied to mail order/home shopping and sensitive to interest rates and unemployment, and a £23.5 million slice knocked off its extensive property portfolio because of weaker values, GUS needs real trading luck this year.

GUS speaks of "an improvement" in the first three months of the present year, but sector analysts believe it will generally be a tough one. Net asset value was about £11 a share at March 31, compared with £10.64 last time, and the buy-in of non-voting A shares continues. The plan to give A shares the vote "continues to be under review". The individual divisions

making up the overall GUS are hardly go-go areas, but GUS as a whole retains a ring of investment magic. Its assets, generally boring profits record and said business areas make GUS by any other name a prime bid target.

A controlling 50 per cent bloc held by the Wolfson Foundation remains, however, the key to any corporate raider's dreams.

Property profits could well make up for any hard going on core trading this year, and profits clean of property might hit the £420 million level. But at 1.073p on a prospective p/e rating of 9.5, GUS is no immediate buy.

P&P

SHARES in P&P, the personal computer distribution and services group, ritually fell 9p to 219p on news of its £27 million rights issue. The reaction may be perverse.

The capital-raising is for Continental expansion, not due to weakness and, since the founders will cut their holdings from 44 to 32 per cent by an agreed placing of rights, should create more interest among institutions.

Unlike most computer services groups, P&P had already made the transition more than

five years ago from venturing founders to professional management that has delivered sensible growth with no expensive mistakes.

P&P has avoided the collapse of the high street computer boom by buying private companies to grow out of its base in distributing personal computers to dealers (now 22 per cent of profits). It sells PCs to big companies, and handles training, maintenance and short-term rental. It is not in leasing and is pioneering deals with big companies wanting to contract-out services.

The half year to end-May shows a further 37 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.8 million, matching the rise in sales, though earnings per share grew a more modest 15 per cent. Full-year profits should reach about £15 million, with earnings per share up about 12 per cent to 22p allowing for the rights issue. At an equivalent ex-rights price of about 208p, the shares would sell at 9.5 times earnings with a yield on forecast dividend of 2.6 per cent. That looks a good buy.

Matthew Clark

SCEPTICS had a field day this time last year when Matthew Clark promised to maintain profits despite the loss, after

150 years, of the Martell cognac agency with which it had been so closely linked.

But despite less than buoyant trading conditions, Clark proved true to its word, with pre-tax profits of £7.47 million before exceptional, against £7.8 million, on turnover almost halved to £70.28 million.

But the creditable figures owe much to one-off gains in operating efficiency and there are doubts if the momentum can be maintained.

The Martell loss underlined the uncertainty of agency agreements and exposed Clark's vulnerability to decisions beyond its control. The appointment in May of Peter Aikens, formerly of Courage, as chief executive, was the first step towards addressing this flaw.

What Matthew Clark wants are brands of its own and these will not come cheap. With £4.6 million in the bank there is scope for acquisitions but Mr Aikens's bargaining skills will be tested.

Pre-tax profits should rise to £8.5 million this year, but without exceptional credits from the disposal of investments or property, earnings are expected to fall 14 per cent to 45p, leaving the shares on a p/e of 7.66. Until the long-term strategy becomes clearer, they look fully valued.

MOSCOW NARODNY BANK LIMITED

Financial Highlights

Year ended 31st December 1989

	1989	1988
	£000	£000
CAPITAL RESOURCES	208,812	171,246
TOTAL ASSETS	2,554,230	2,478,496
TOTAL DEROSITS	2,259,555	2,247,881
LOANS AND ADVANCES	1,555,577	1,314,543
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION AND TRANSFERS TO INNER RESERVES	290	5,635

"The guidelines laid down in the Bank's Strategic Plan have brought a change of emphasis away from interest income to fee-based income through the introduction of new business areas. Indeed, I am delighted to report that the fee-based proportion of our total income rose to 37.5% in 1989 from 15.1% in the previous year. Greatly assisted by the increase in our fee income, net banking profit (before tax, bad debt provisions and transfers to inner reserves) rose during 1989 to £21.5 million from £15.4 million in the previous year."

A. S. Maslov - Chairman

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Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Defender of his faith

FORMER pugilist and dockworker George Walker, who now chairs the thriving £140 million leisure and property conglomerate Brent Walker, will be doing his bit to repair Britain's relations with mainland Europe tomorrow. Business commitments permitting he will be on board *British Defender* as it joins 63 other boats in a 1,000-mile race across from Brighton Marina to Puerto Sherry in Southern Spain, both owned and developed by Brent Walker. With a total of 100,000 acus (£75,000) on offer as prize money, 12 boats in the 45th class - one from each community country - will compete for the Brent Walker Cup, in what is scheduled to become a biennial event. "It will be the only European race and apart from publicising the Brent Walker name there, we are doing it because I am very pro-Europe. I think there are marvellous opportunities for British business there, particularly in leisure," says Walker, proudly sporting a pair of teddy bear motif braces. "They were a present from my youngest daughter, she calls me her big teddy bear," he explains. Walker, who still works out in a gymnasium almost every day, also reveals that six weeks ago he became a grandfather when his eldest daughter Sarah, married to the Marquess of Milford Haven, gave birth to her first child, Tatiana. "What's worse,"

Walker quips with a laugh, "is that I now have to sleep with a grandmother."

CLEARLY recovered from his recent court case in America, Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian entrepreneur - who has said that he now wants to concentrate on making money again - has already been busy renewing old acquaintances. A little after lunchtime the other day he was spotted leaving the Cleapside headquarters of Tiny Rowland's Lorrho, smiling from ear to ear....

Know thy enemy

NEWS that the electricity industry has chosen a monster figure akin to the one created by Frankenstein - he was, after all, the creator rather than the monster itself - to launch its privatisation campaign in September has puzzled some City onlookers. But according to power industry sources, the idea for using a "friendly" monster figure, a sort of Ronald McDonald meets Vincent Price, to star in an expensive advertising campaign, was inspired by the electricity industry's former arch-enemy Sir Denis Rooke. Rooke, until last year chairman of British Gas, has, through no fault of his own, often been likened to the figure in Mary Shelley's novel. But if imitation really is the sincerest form of flattery, Rooke should consider himself honoured indeed. For the electricity industry sees gas as such a threat that one company chairman - at the results briefing for the 12 regional

distribution companies yesterday - could not even bring himself to mention it. "I don't use three-letter words," he said.

Pudding wine

MORE than 700 of the wealthiest individuals in Britain suffered from indigestion yesterday afternoon, after their luncheon in the Great Room at the Grosvenor House - half way through the day-long national conference and annual meeting of the Association of Lloyd's Members - had been rudely interrupted by an electrical fire in two generators. Just as they finished the main course they were forced to abandon the prospect of pudding and a couple more glasses of wine and instead spent the next hour or so standing on the pavement in Park Lane. "Some of the biggest names in British business were there," says a member. "And there was nothing they could do but hang around outside. Some ventured into the hotel lounge for coffee, but when they asked for dessert from the trolley they were informed that it was for restaurant guests only." Eventually the afternoon session, which was to have included a debate about increased international competition with speeches by Roger Harvey, Kleinwort Benson's insurance expert and Elvin Patrick, chairman of Bankside Underwriting Agencies, had to be abandoned. But what is said to have distressed the members most, as they stood outside pondering their

plight, was the prospect that they would probably have to pick up the tab for the insurance claim as well.

Wiley goes NatWest

KEITH Wiley, who now admits that he once spent two years working for the Inland Revenue after he left school - "But I lost so many friends I had to give it up," he says - has been persuaded to leave James Capel after a 22-year career there. A former partner of the firm and head of fixed-income sales, Wiley, aged 43, will join NatWest Capital Markets at the end of this month. But, because of contractual restrictions, he will be unable to talk to clients until the end of August. The uncertainties surrounding the proposed merger of Capel's parent, Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, with Midland Bank, were, he says, the catalyst behind his decision to make a move. "That was at the back of my mind and it was probably because of that that I was more receptive to the head-hunter's telephone call than I might have been otherwise," he says. "Then, when I saw NatWest's capital markets operation, I was extremely impressed." At NatWest Capital Markets, Wiley will be an executive director of its capital markets division - which handles international bonds, Eurobonds, commercial paper and gilts - and he will also be the head of sterling fixed-interest sales.

مكتبة الأهل

2.5%

of the
Madrid Stock Exchange.
In one new
active management
group.

La Corporación Banesto is Spain's newest - and
largest - private sector industrial company.

Formed on June 22nd, it brings together all of
the industrial interests of Banesto, one of Spain's
largest banks.

The significance of the new company may be
judged by the size and breadth of these holdings.

Indeed, La Corporación Banesto now accounts
for over 2.5% of the Madrid Stock Exchange, and
more than 1% of the entire Spanish economy.

With core holdings in fifteen major Spanish
corporations and investments in more than 100 other
companies, it also covers practically every area of
Spain's commercial and industrial activity.

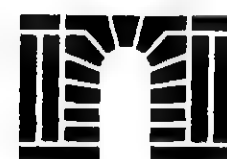
Our aim is not merely to invest in these
companies, but to influence their success.

To give strategic direction to their management.
To help plan and promote their development. To make
the most of their potential.

In effect, La Corporación Banesto is an actively
managed slice of Spain.

Its influence will be felt way beyond Spain
however.

In the emerging unified European market.
And around the world.



**La Corporación
Banesto**

*The driving force
in Spain is now an active
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... FIFTEEN YEARS ...

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 9. Dealings end today. \$Contango day is Monday. Settlement day July 30.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 28)

[illegible]

179	100	68	PRG Ric	95	100	—	5
—	184	120	Bernese	125	140	—	15
—	107	36	Brusang	53	58	—	—
—	118	79	Bond (An)	24	87	—	7
—	118	90	CIA Co	100	105	+2	—
—	120	110	Co	120	125	—	—

[illegible]

219	230	Wegos Tease Actin	214	217	-1	11
68	12	Yellowcinnat	11	14	.	

PROPERTY	
113	78 Albed Lon
120	86 Area
97	101
80	88
4	2

[illegible]

71	181	129	Exporters Trust	122	129	1	13.3
6.7	380	310	Excess & Agency	310	330		8.3
	100	148	Excess Gen	165	180		5.0
5.1	208	193	Excess of Loans	280	270		9.8
7.5	71	40	Fac. Costs	41	44		2.1

260	177	180	200	70
260	237	343	240	2
401	978	405	405	1
5	4	3	3	3
54	41			
576	698	730	730	3
576	975	73	73	1
113	55	75	75	8
978	473	500	550	37
978	1024	73	73	1
177	145	150	150	1
205	220	225	225	2
220	220	525	525	2
158	48	50	50	2
158	48	50	50	2
948	464	515	581	23
730	430	515	581	23
175	130	140	150	7
82	54	58	61	8
82	54	58	61	8
63	11	10	10	1
107	55	37	37	3

124	110	Machon (A&J)	114	116	64
53	53	New Canadian	50	56	
19	12	Dairy Est	12	13	11
35	5	Peters Propt	4	7	1.3
204	140	Posta Corp	136	148	+3

104	3	Regan	46	56	0.2	5.2
82	61	Regan	89	73	-1	0.7
100	1	Reedert	100	100	0	0.0
344	183	Roughneck	183	187	4	9.1
226	180	Roughneck Sam	155	179	24	10.8
100	1	Rowls	100	100	0	0.0
196	125	Sat Mar	138	140	2	0.8
183	143	Shafersby	140	150	10	2.0
70	36	Sharders Ship	30	35	5	8.7
100	1	Shard	100	100	0	0.0
89	89	Sander Goldsmith	57	62	5	8.7
326	299	Soups Scarp	294	298	4	14.4
205	205	Southern Prop	205	205	0	0.0
334	181	Soybeans	172	243	71	16.7
87	72	Tea Corn	77	82	5	6.2
100	1	Walled Pen	100	100	0	0.0
473	145	Land	265	285	20	10.2
16	14	Union Spans	15	18	+1	1.8
95	153	Wheat	165	176	11	1.7
218	245	Wheatland	245	245	0	0.0
49	49	Winnipeg	48	48	0	0.0
70	57	Woodsdale	62	72	+2	5.2

SHOES, LEATHER

76	47	Haddon	43	50	-	3.2
190	150	Lambert, Henario	195	200	-	13.3
141	17	Raynor, Samsel	160	7	-	8.1
140	105	Strong & Fisher	130	21	-	1.2
340	200	Stots	330	345	-	8.3

TEXTILES						
26	17	Aech	18	26	-	3.2
273	100	Alford Text	371	375	74	13.4
10	55	Beckman (A)	69	82	-	8.3
60	60	Boston Co	150	82	-	11.3
191	151	B. Mohan	152	157	-	11.3
261	234	Corstius Textiles	274	277	-	11.3
110	27	DTT Co	106	110	-	11.3
926	158	Daniach	109	170	-	4.2
54	35	Drummond	35	37	-	12.1
		Evans, J. & J.	100	100	-	12.1

123	91	James	(S)	110	118	-	112
315	767	Lamont		313	317	-	150
222	188	Leach		183	201	43	117
126	81	Lester		78	83	-	53
58	65	Light	(S)	47	51	2	53

80	50	SC SEET	50	50	1	7.0
80	51	Sinar	86	80		6.0
80	34	Standard	43	44		5.3
100	258	Tenkenkens	276	295		16.3
100	64	Totol	87	85		8.6
17	8	West Trust	9	9		0.7
220	179	Yamylde	180	180		12.9

TOBACCOS						
853	630	BAY (aa)	630	635	1	40.9
185	110	P1 Carmel	110	100		10.0
485	597	Relomatic "B" (aa)	633	643	12	20.5

533	799	Assoc Bk Ports	389	293	-1	8.3
458	367	BAA (a)	458	460	+2	15.3
240	193	Br Airways (a)	210	213	+2	11.8
240	193	Br Airways (a)	210	213	+2	11.8

[illegible][illegible]

100%	100%	Anglin Water	147	149	20.4
100%	100%	Arden	158	163	21.4
100%	100%	Ardenwood	158	163	21.4
100%	100%	North West	158	163	21.4
160	127	Stevens Tank	129	131	19.0
171	120	Sham Water	128	130	18.6
202	141	Sham West	155	156	22.2
171	127	Donner Lake	143	145	21.4
196	141	Wash. Water	168	172	24.4
189	137	Wash. Water	145	149	20.3
158	142	Yreka Lake	157	160	21.6
\$175/\$1000 Package unit			\$148	●	\$22

Madeira aims to attract big business and the wealthy by becoming an offshore financial centre and free trade zone offering tax advantages

Treasure island in the sunshine

Madeira is staking its claim to become Europe's newest and most attractive offshore financial centre and free trade zone. The force behind the initiative comes from the Madeira Development Company (SDM), a private concern operating under an exclusive contract granted by the Madeiran government, which has a 25 per cent equity stake.

The SDM, led by Dr Francisco Costa, a persuasive lobbyist, has so far attracted eight companies to the free trade zone and nine to the offshore centre. It has also attracted four ships to a new offshore shipping register and persuaded the island's government to authorise offshore trusts, making Madeira one of the few places outside common law jurisdiction to recognise the trust concept.

As part of Portugal, which is a full member of the European Community, Madeira offers non-Community companies a fiscally advantageous way of reaching the European market, although poor communications to some extent vitiate its claim to be a stepping-stone to Africa, still less the United States, making it less likely to attract EC companies.

Its appeal lies in its uniqueness in offering not only a base on Community territory, but also total exemption from corporation tax, withholding tax and capital gains tax. Among other Community offshore centres, only Gibraltar approaches that combination, levying just 2 per cent corporation tax. In Luxembourg corporation tax is 36 per cent and withholding tax ranges from 5 to 15 per cent. But neither Gibraltar nor Luxembourg offers free trade zone facilities, and Dublin lacks an international shipping register.

Another convenience is that companies registered in Madeira's offshore centre or free trade zone are exempt from the Portuguese requirement to present annual audited accounts. Dr Costa, however, is

adamant that the system, supervised by the Bank of Portugal, is protected from exploitation by layers of official surveillance. Before a licence is granted to an institution setting up in the offshore centre, the SDM, Madeira's regional government, the central bank, the treasury secretary and finally the finance minister may exercise a veto.

In the light of dark hints in some Portuguese newspapers that the offshore centre could become a conduit for illicit cash laundering, Dr Costa is at pains to emphasise that it is "very important to avoid any incidents that could give the offshore centre a bad image".

Madeira has more pressing problems. Until Portuguese

Property sharks and cut-throat developers will not be welcomed, but there is money to be made

legislation permitting insurance companies and fund management institutions to operate offshore is formally ratified, the development of the offshore centre will remain stultified.

Lloyds Bank Fund Management of the Channel Islands is the only non-Portuguese bank so far to have obtained a licence, and it is still waiting for ratification.

In the long run, Madeira's main attraction will probably be to the foreign institutions offering sophisticated products that the Portuguese banks are not yet able to match.

Madeira needs to diversify out of bananas, tourism, wine and its traditional homespun cottage handicraft and embroidery industries. Tourism is competitive, but the other mainstays are shrinking, both as employers of labour and

as earners of currency. The island's economy minister, Perry Vidal, warns Madeirans against expecting too much job creation from offshore financial development, although the free trade zone and the deep-water port planned to complement it could, he believes, bring employment.

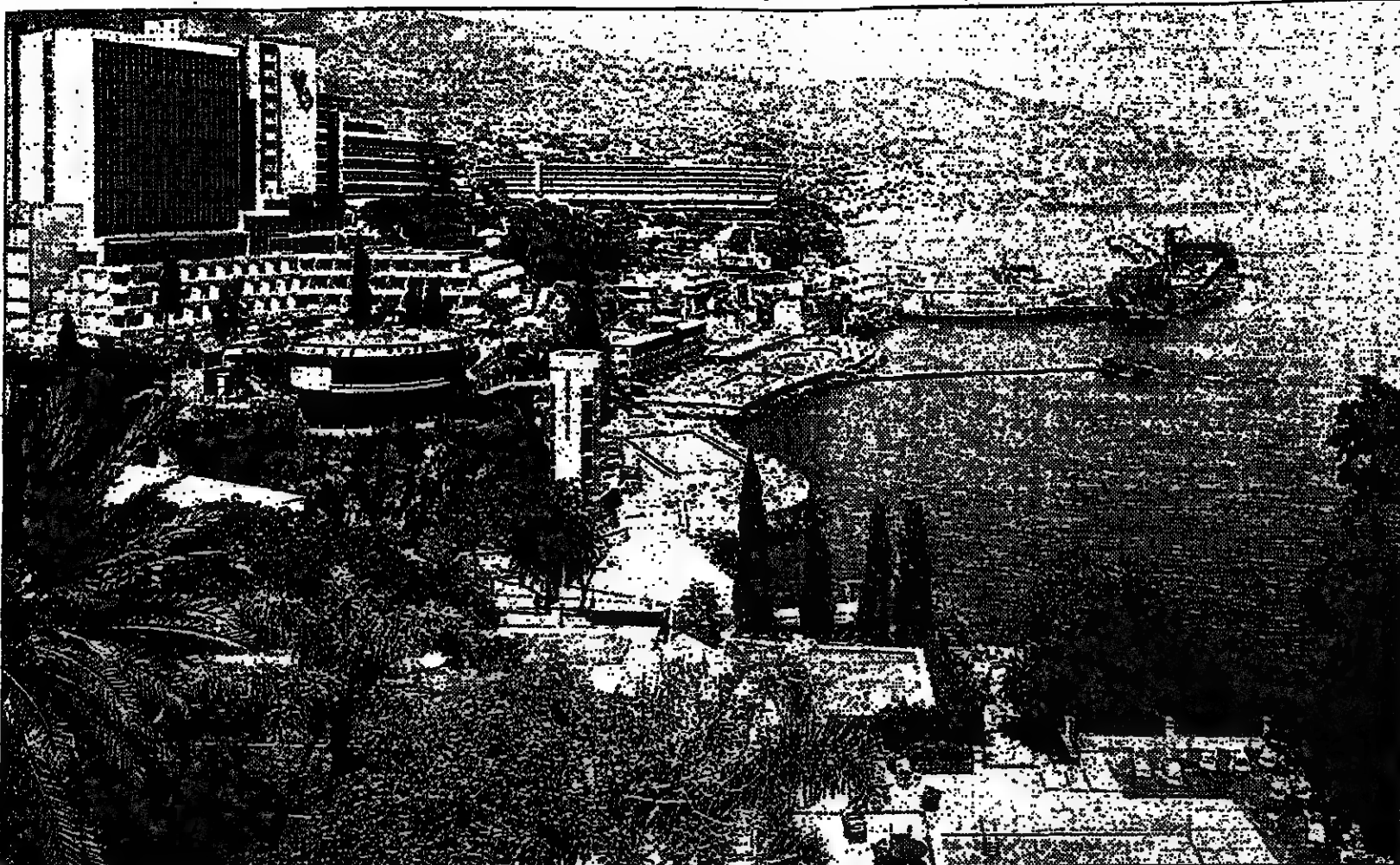
The authorities certainly expect to see Madeira's economy restructured to some extent by the free trade zone and offshore venture. Senhor Vidal gives the comparison of Jersey, where in 1965 tourism contributed 40 per cent and services a bare 10 per cent to the economy. Now, he says, services account for more than 40 per cent and tourism 35 per cent. He believes Madeira can emulate that trend and may even surpass it because, unlike Jersey, it has the free trade zone in its armoury.

One sector that could benefit from offshore and free trade zone activities is property. Of the two, the offshore centre will probably have the greater impact. In the view of John Cully, a project director with ITI, a development company that has a cross-holding with the SDM.

Mr Cully believes the existence of the offshore centre is already "an important factor in the decisions of buyers of holiday or retirement property, enhancing the security of the investment".

He says that Madeira, with its civilised, genteel traditions, is not likely to host cut-throat developers or property sharks. Nevertheless, there is money to be made, particularly as there has not yet been a property boom on Madeira as in other tourist centres.

Madeira has hardly any crime and few ideological or nationalist obsessions to speak of — if one discounts the fierce denunciations of "the continental bureaucracy" of mainland Portugal. But it still has to convince a lot of people that this offshore island, 600 miles out in the Atlantic, is the best place to be offshore.



Tax-free investment in an idyllic setting: Madeira has hardly any crime and has already attracted buyers of holiday or retirement property

Banks cash in on the tax advantages

As an offshore financial centre, Madeira appeals particularly to its many emigrants who have made good in Brazil, South Africa or Venezuela. South Africa's politics and the perils of South American hyperinflation mean that migrant funds are seeking a tax-efficient home from home.

Portuguese companies seeking loans from banks abroad are the other main plank of offshore business. Most banks that have received or applied for an offshore licence are Portuguese. Dr Francisco Costa, chairman of the Madeira Development Company (SDM), expects more foreign banks when the offshore centre has proved itself. He cites the example of Gibraltar, where nearly all comers were British in its early days as an offshore centre.

Portuguese delay in ratify-

ing legislation permitting insurance and fund management institutions to operate offshore explains why Lloyds Bank Fund Management is still not in business, although it was licensed more than a year ago.

William Knight, the managing director, says: "We know Portugal very well and feel comfortable there, and unlike the Channel Islands, Madeira is within the European Community." He explains that only in a European Community-based offshore centre are undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS) legally valid. UCITS, which could become popular with the public as Community integration proceeds, are instruments for forming cross-border investment companies, and the fiscal neutrality of Community offshore centres such as Madeira lends itself admirably to this activity.

Portuguese law allows UCITS only to be managed in Madeira, but new legislation in the pipeline will permit their incorporation there.

The Portuguese banks are certainly there in force. David Caldeira, who directs offshore operations for Portugal's leading bank, Caixa Geral de

Deposits earn more, loans cost less, more banks are expected

Caixa also recently bought World Bank-issued bonds offshore, on which it will receive tax-free interest, thus raising the real yield. "This deal would have been impossible for us onshore," says Senhor Caldeira, "since the World Bank demands very fine terms we can meet only under offshore conditions."

Portuguese companies raising short-term loans in foreign currency also benefit from Madeira's offshore facilities. Senhor Caldeira says. Instead of paying the present 21.6 per cent on the Portuguese money market, they can borrow, for example, Deutschmarks at 8 per cent or American dollars at 8.75 per cent directly from Madeira offshore.

The same external loan facilities would exist onshore as a leading Portuguese bank could instruct its Frankfurt or New York office to buy the required currency on the local money market, but this would add to the cost of the loan to the client, noticeably on large-volume deals.

However, one problem is finding qualified staff, Senhor Caldeira says, because there is

a big demand for trained banking personnel in mainland Portugal, where the sector is expanding. Another problem is lack of promotion.

Senhor Caldeira says: "We need to be known. Syndicated business" in particular demands trust. They need to know who we are before we are invited to participate in an important syndication."

More promotion, he says, would help to attract foreign deposits, not only from expatriate individuals, but also from the US dollar earnings of big Brazilian corporates, which now go mainly to the United States and Luxembourg.

Similar strictures on the need for more promotion come from the International Bank of Funchal, a Madeiran savings bank that has gone offshore as a way of building an international profile.

Senhor Caldeira is optimistic that in the long term the offshore venture will succeed. He has only one serious doubt: if the European Community after 1992 liberalises tax systems Community-wide, it could diminish the generous fiscal advantages.

If this came about, non-Community funds would have to be attracted.

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- Exemption in perpetuity from local taxes and capital gains tax;
- Exemption from withholding taxes on dividends and transfer tax;
- No exchange controls;

whether on commercial transactions or repatriation of capital:

- Staff training subsidies;
- Rebates on energy-efficient manufacturing processes;
- Exemption from customs duties on goods and raw materials imported to the zone;
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Trading post with a prime position

Madeira's industrial free trade zone is at the east end of the island near Canical, five miles from the airport and 20 miles from the capital, Funchal. When complete, it will consist of 140 hectares, fenced in as required by European Community regulations.

The three-phase development still has a long way to go. Only the first part of the initial phase is complete. A mere 22 hectares out of 38 are ready for occupation, although almost all are reserved, according to Pedro Amaral, the project's chief engineer.

Senhor Amaral says that apart from the Portuguese, Brazilian and Lebanese companies listed, a Chinese company has signed up to manufacture textiles, and a small Irish jewellery company has filled the gap left by a South African food company that recently withdrew.

The zone's immediate priority is the building of a port terminal. Without port facilities,

Work is continuing on facilities for a free trade zone, and more companies are being attracted to the development

ities, companies would have to import their raw materials and export their finished products through the container port at Funchal, the road from Canical to the capital, although picturesque, is inadequate for commercial transport.

Work is due to start on the port in September, and completion is expected next year. That is when expansion of Madeira's airport is also due to start, to enable it to receive bigger aircraft and handle more passengers and freight. Completion is scheduled for 1996, but for bulk cargo a deep-sea port is an urgent necessity.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on the infrastructure of access roads, electricity, water supply and telecommunications.

A combination of sentiment and hard-headed calculation attracted Edgar Aguiar, managing director of Amaplast, a Brazilian plastics company, to the zone. Senhor Aguiar was born in Madeira but emigrated to Brazil in 1975.

Convenient access to the European Community market, as well as the zone's tax and trading incentives, attracted him. "We need markets," he says, "and we hope the wide Community market will justify our decision."

But Europe is not the only target. Senhor Aguiar explains: "Madeira is in a good position to reach African markets, especially Portuguese-speaking countries such as Angola and Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands." But is not southern Africa just as far

from Madeira as from Brazil? "Yes, but freight rates are 20 per cent less from the zone."

Senhor Aguiar, like many Madeirans, takes a robust view of the Lisbon government and its treatment of Madeira, which he describes as colonial. He is bitter that Lisbon imposed a new VAT code in 1988, after he had started to implement his expansion at the zone. This imposed a 17 per cent rate on his industrial equipment imported from Brazil, when he had expected it to be zero-rated. "Seventeen per cent is a lot of money on a \$2 million investment," he complains. "The central government must change its approach to Madeira if it wants the zone to succeed."

Senhor Aguiar's other, home-grown, problem is the lack of a trained work-force in Madeira. "Training the local work-force is the investor's biggest worry," he says. "We shall have to use personnel flown from Brazil to train our staff."



Gateway to the free trade area. Port facilities, vital to the project's success, should be completed next year

He adds that, once trained, the Madeiran work-force is highly motivated and reliable, and the authorities offer grants of up to 50 per cent of the cost of training.

This view is shared by Michael Heavey, an Irishman, who in May started the Gold Bullion and Gem Company, which will occupy 285 square metres and employ 20 workers at the zone. "A big pool of

intelligent young people is available," Mr Heavey says. He hopes to build up an \$8 million turnover within the first year. His business, he says, is to smelt gold and cast it in any form or carat the customers choose.

He intends to provide transport to take tourists from their hotels to his workplace in the zone, where they will be able to buy custom-made jewellery

tax-free — so long as they export it, with themselves, when they return home. So the lack of port facilities does not worry Mr Heavey. "You could take half my stock away in your briefcase," he says.

Mr Heavey hopes to benefit from Madeira's year-round, upmarket tourism. The lack of beaches attracts an older, wealthy clientele.

A small-scale manufacturing

process producing compact products will not need port facilities to operate effectively in the zone. The Madeira Development Company is therefore hoping to attract makers of electronic components, electrical parts and other small finished products. The company says the nimble fingers of the island's women embroiderers could adapt to precise industrial work.

The register gets shipshape

UNDER THE legislation establishing the free trade zone, Madeira was given the go-ahead to establish an international shipping register. The register started on January 1 and now provides Portugal with a second register. Lisbon has had one for several years.

So far, four vessels, all Portuguese, have registered, according to the Madeira Development Company (SDM). The Madeira Open Shipping Register (Mar) has pledged to honour all international conventions signed by Portugal. Passenger ships as well as deep-sea vessels are permitted to register.

All companies registered with Mar are entitled to the tax and other incentives available to companies involved in Madeira's off-shore financial centre, provided they are also licensed to operate under the free trade zone legislation. Shipping companies owning vessels operating outside Portuguese territorial waters are therefore not liable to income tax on their profits or on the salaries of their officers and ratings, nor

A new shipping plan should help Portugal

need they pay capital gains tax on the sale or transfer of a ship or of shares in a shipping company.

Dr Francisco Costa, the SDM chairman, agrees that a main aim of the new shipping register is to attract the flow of vessels that have recently been leaving the Portuguese flag. All ships joining Mar will duly fly the flag.

Dr Costa is confident that Madeira's location astride the main Atlantic shipping routes and the south-western approaches to Europe will ensure the success of the new register. He points out that Portline, Portugal's main general cargo operator, has joined. Portline remains on the Lisbon register but has transferred one ship to Funchal. Dr Costa says: "The main groups I need to satisfy are the government, the shipowners and the unions." He says an agreement is being finalised with the International Seamen's Union that will

confirm the Madeiran register as a respected, soundly based institution. "We are not," he says, "aiming at a mere flag of convenience register."

Dr Costa sees no reason why Mar should not have half a million tonnes of shipping registered by the end of the year, provided two crucial conditions are met. The first concerns manning. By law, 50 per cent of the crew and the masters of all Mar-registered vessels have to be Portuguese nationals. This law must be speedily amended if the shipping register is to have any future with non-Portuguese shipowners.

The second change that must take place, according to Dr Costa, concerns mortgages. Under present Portuguese law, creditors come last in the queue, behind workers and the state, in recovering funds in cases of bankruptcy or non-fulfilment of obligations.

Dr Costa says Portugal must fall into line with international norms giving greater priority to creditors' interests if Madeira's shipping register is to be a success.



Tradition: the grape harvest

Old wine, modern flavour

THE ORIGINS of Madeira wine lie in the 15th century when, tradition has it, Prince Henry the Navigator introduced the *malvasia candida* wine from Crete in an attempt to wrest the lucrative sweet wine trade from the Genoese and Venetians.

This was after the Portuguese discovery of Madeira in 1419. Later, after Charles II's marriage to the Portuguese Catherine of Braganza, Madeira escaped England's general protectionist ban on the export of continental produce to its colonies. By the 18th century, when Madeira was first fortified with brandy, it was *de rigueur* in the American colonies. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin bestowed the supreme accolade by choosing it for their toast to the Declaration of Independence.

When the phylloxera insect hit Madeira in the last century, resistant American vines were imported and the industry was saved, although the Suez Canal opening, which meant fewer ships called, was another blow.

Campaign to double Madeira production

In 1913 the wine companies formed the Madeira Wine Association, which has grown into the Madeira Wine Company. There are four Madeiras, every one named after the grape from which it is produced. The driest is Sercial, a Riesling-type best served chilled as an aperitif. Verdelho is medium dry, to accompany the soup course. Bual is medium sweet, an acceptable dessert wine. The sweetest is Malmsey.

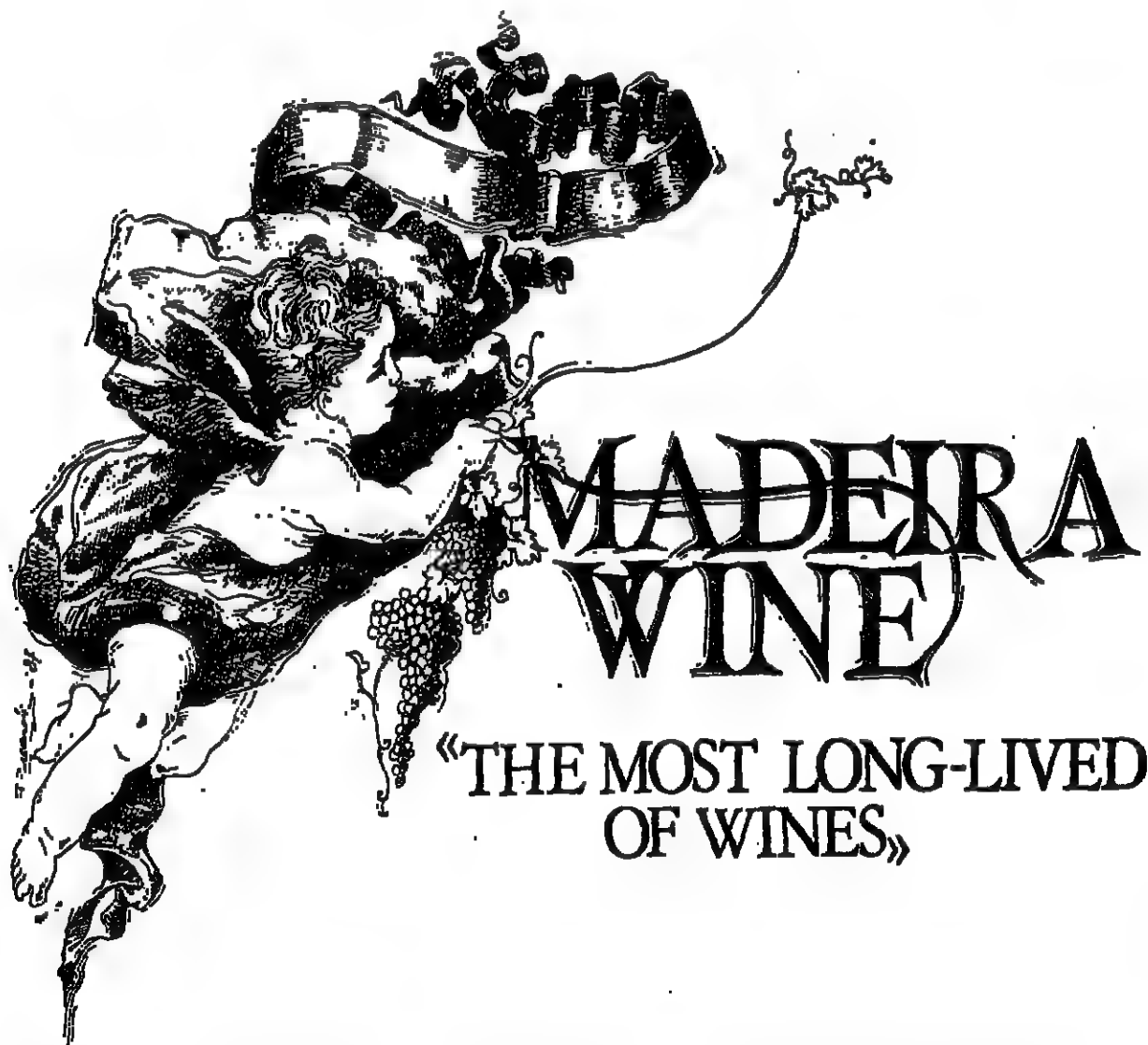
Dr Constantino Palma, president of the Madeira Wine Institute, says sales of sweet and dry are roughly equal. However, as more people are drinking Madeira as an aperitif, Sercial and Verdelho sales are creeping up. Dr Palma aims to improve the image by selling less in bulk and more in bottle. "Ten years ago," he says, "about 85 per cent was sold in bulk. Today the proportion is more like 50-50."

About 9.5 million litres of wine

are produced every year, of which only 4.5 million — a \$2 billion market — are acceptable for sale as Madeira. Roughly 3.6 million litres are exported, most to the European Community and the remainder to European Free Trade Association countries, North America and Japan.

The institute wants to convert its five million litres of low-quality wine into good Madeira, to double production during the next decade and increase sales of the more profitable, upmarket reserve wines of more than five years' vintage. The Community is helping to finance this project.

Dr Palma accepts that the industry's structure is fragmented, the companies are small and lack resources for investment, and the limited scale of production denies them the economies of scale that would otherwise enable effective spending on the advertising and promotion that has done so well for port and sherry. A "transformation of the mentality of the wine-grower" as well as money is needed, he says.



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Progressive Tadwin can lift listed Newbury sprint

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

TADWIN, from Peter Walwyn's local Lambourn stable, looks capable of winning the listed Newbury Stakes at Newbury today with only 3lb to carry, and she is my nap.

By winning a handicap at Newcastle last time out with 13lb more on her back, this daughter of that top-class sprinter Never So Bold thoroughly earned this step up in class.

A line through the consistent Norton Challenger, to whom she gave 6lb and a head beating at Newbury, would appear to give her the edge over Katakzeena because earlier in the season Katakzeena had given Norton Challenger 4lb and an identical beating at York.

When weighing up Tadwin's chance today it is also pertinent to point out that another form line emerged from her race at Newbury involving the third horse, Sharphalo. He has been a model of consistency this season as his form figures for this evening's Waterbeach Handicap at Newmarket will testify.

In the Newcastle sprint



Walwyn steps Tadwin up in class

Tadwin finished a little over three lengths in front of Sharphalo when giving him 18lb. Earlier in the month, La Grange Music had also beaten Sharphalo by four lengths over today's course and distance but when conceding him only 11lb.

Even after making every allowance for the fact that La Grange Music has gone on improving, his good third behind Constant Commotion and Dead Certain in the Cork and Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot is certainly evidence of that.

I still feel that Tadwin has an

undeniable chance on these terms.

Half an hour later, her jockey Willie Carson can also land the Rideaway Handicap on Usaylah, whose step of racing when winning her last two races at Goodwood more than hinted that she should be capable of outstaying Constant Delight, who was such a disappointing favourite at York a week ago.

Whatever she achieves this time, her jockey Walter Swinburn should be on the target to fly back to Newmarket where he will also be expected to win the 8.25 event on Dance Ahead.

Mujaziz, my selection for the EBF Echinswell Maiden Stakes, is a colt by Alydar, who cost his owner Sheikh Maktoum Al-Maktoum the princely sum of \$1 million when he was bought in the United States last year.

As his dam, Miss Snowflake, who won over six furlongs there, has already bred a colt capable of winning the Preakeness Stakes, this is clearly a family that is bristling with ability.

By accounts, his stable companion, Dance Ahead, who is by Sharphalo and

out of that good mare Shoot

lick, will also be a tough nut to crack in the Thoroughbred Technology Maiden Fillies Stakes at Newmarket where it makes a good case for appearing that Sharphalo (7.30) has a sound chance of winning again now that he is racing again over seven furlongs, the distance over which he is accounted so readily at Redcar for Wednesday's Yarmouth winner Kaway before reverting to sprinting.

Tiger Flower, who has been working nicely with the likes of the French Oaks winner Ratha since beating Akbar at Leicester in the spring, is taken to win the ante International King's Gap Stakes.

At Ayer, Bill Watts can land a double with Good Hand (5.15), who was a commendable fourth in the Ascot Stakes last time out, and the progressive three-year-old Officer Cadet (6.15).

Finally, Billy Newnes, his ego boosted, and rightly so, as a result of the polished ride that he gave Eradicate when winning last Saturday's Magnet Cup at York, can capture the Tyne Tees Television Handicap at Thirsk for James Toller on Tiger Point.

Muddle set to start training

RICHARD Muddle has been granted a dual purpose training licence. The former jockey's stables are at Southwell racecourse, and he will have a mixed team of 30 horses.

Muddle rode about 200 winners after joining Ryan Price as a amateur and then being apprenticed with Ken Payne, Staff Ingham, Frenchie Nicholson and John Dunlop.

He joined his father, Ron, as a director of Lingfield Park racecourse in 1983 and for a short while was clerk of the course. The Muddles sold Lingfield in 1985 and the company now owns Southwell.

"The main reason why I applied for a combined trainer's licence was to maximise the tremendous training facilities now at Southwell," said Muddle.

He hopes to have his first runners before the end of the month.

French raid

THE Barry Hills-trained Observation Post and Luca Cumani's Pirate Army were among yesterday's six acceptors for the group Prix Maurice de Nieuil (1m 40s) at Maisons-Laffitte on Sunday.

However, the group two Prix Robert Papin, for two-year-olds, had not started, had not attracted any British challengers. The filly The Perfect Life, a winner of the group three Prix du Bois at Longchamp 12 days ago, heads nine acceptors.

Cauthen fined £1,000 over refusal to ride Payne colt

STEVE Cauthen was fined £1,000 by the Jockey Club yesterday after an enquiry into why he refused to ride Nicholas Payne at Leicester in May.

Cauthen had weighed out on the Phipps-trained colt for the Phipps Credit Handicap on May 29, but made a last-minute decision not to take the ride.

Richard Fox, who was present at the near two-hour enquiry at Portman Square, substituted on the colt who finished eighth.

Cauthen, who was found guilty under rule 220 (11) which deals with bringing racing into disrepute, was unhappy with the decision and said he would do the same thing again.

"The hearing went fair

enough, but I still disagreed with the outcome. The rule under which I was fined had no relevance to the situation. It was a one-off situation and I felt they weren't open minded," said Cauthen, who was represented by Matthew McCloy.

"We put across a good case — our evidence was good but they didn't see it our way. I didn't think it was fair of the trainer to book me for that particular horse. There is no doubt he was a difficult ride — everybody backed me," Cauthen continued.

But at the time Payne had said he thought the colt was good but the jockey was winding Steve up, saying my horse is a difficult

ride, which I definitely isn't," Cauthen concluded. "I would do the same again, but it's a situation which doesn't happen that often."

Nicholas Payne, who has raced twice since Cauthen stepped down at Leicester, runs again at Newmarket today when he will be ridden by Michael Wigham.

Willie Musson, the Newmarket trainer, lost his appeal against a £200 fine imposed on him by the Beverley Stewards concerning the running and riding of his Swift Silver in the Ebor Handicap on June 13. The stewards considered the horse had not been allowed to run on his merits.

THIRSK

Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Friend In Deed, 2.45 Lucky Barnes, 3.15 Dry Foot, 3.45 Maudslayi, 4.15 Gladstone, 4.45 Powersure, 5.15 Mistral Dancer.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

4.45 Cool Dancer, 5.15 Mistral Dancer.

Going: firm

Draw: 5F-6F, high numbers best

2.15 WHITWELL STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,824: 5f) (5 runners)

1 213 ATHENIAN KING (6) (P) C. Toller 5-3. D. Micklethwait 3. 2 201 POETS COVE (6) (P) W. Carter 5-3. W. Micklethwait 3. 3 201 POETS COVE (6) (P) W. Carter 5-3. W. Micklethwait 3. 4 201 POETS COVE (6) (P) W. Carter 5-3. W. Micklethwait 3. 5 201 POETS COVE (6) (P) W. Carter 5-3. W. Micklethwait 3.

2.45 NESS SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,448: 1m) (2 runners)

1 0-00 COLLEGE MAN (1) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 2 0-00 COLLEGE MAN (1) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

3.15 TYNE TEES TELEVISION HANDICAP (2,898: 6f) (5 runners)

1 430 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 430 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 430 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 430 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 5 430 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

4.45 WESTHORPE HANDICAP (2,448: 1m 4f) (2 runners)

1 021 GLASTONDALE 11 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 021 GLASTONDALE 11 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

4.45 BYWELL MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,337: 2m) (5 runners)

1 0-00 KALLES 6 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 KALLES 6 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 KALLES 6 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 KALLES 6 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 5 0-00 KALLES 6 (P, F, G, S) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

5.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

6.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

7.30 WATERBEACH HANDICAP (2,507: 1m 4f) (10 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 5 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

8.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

9.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

10.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

11.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

12.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

13.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

14.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

15.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

16.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

17.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

18.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

19.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

20.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

21.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

22.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

23.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

24.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

25.15 MOUNT ST JOHN GRADUATION STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,507: 6f) (4 runners)

1 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 2 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 3 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3. 4 0-00 ENTHRAP 7 (7) B. Carter 4-10. A. Micklethwait 3.

NEWBURY

Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Researching, 2.30 Mujaziz, 3.00 TADWIN (nap), 3.30 Usaylah, 4.00 La Artistie, 4.30 Janiski.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 Ayra, 2.30 Mujaziz, 3.00 LA GRANGE MUSIC (nap), 3.30 Constant Delight, 4.00 Nousy, 4.30 Janiski.

Michael Seely's selection: 3.00 Tadwin.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 TADWIN.

Going: good to firm

Draw: high numbers have slight advantage up to 1m straight

2.0 ALDBOURNE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,997: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

1 101 (9) 4 FARMER 25 (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 2 101 (9) 4 FARMER 25 (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 3 101 (9) 4 FARMER 25 (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 101 (9) 4 FARMER 25 (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 101 (9) 4 FARMER 25 (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

2.30 MUJAZIZ (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 3 2.30 MUJAZIZ (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 2.30 MUJAZIZ (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 2.30 MUJAZIZ (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

3.00 TADWIN (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 3.00 TADWIN (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 3.00 TADWIN (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

3.30 USAYLAH (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 3.30 USAYLAH (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 3.30 USAYLAH (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

4.00 LA ARTISTIE (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 4.00 LA ARTISTIE (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 4.00 LA ARTISTIE (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

4.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 4.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 4.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

5.00 LA GRANGE MUSIC (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 5.00 LA GRANGE MUSIC (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 5.00 LA GRANGE MUSIC (nap) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

5.30 CONSTANT DELIGHT (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 5.30 CONSTANT DELIGHT (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 5.30 CONSTANT DELIGHT (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

6.00 NOUSY (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 6.00 NOUSY (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 6.00 NOUSY (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

6.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 6.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 6.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

7.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 7.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 7.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

7.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 7.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 7.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

8.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 8.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 8.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.

8.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 8.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5 8.30 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4.


9.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 4 9.00 JANISKI (M) (P) J. Perkins 5-0. S. Webster 4. 5

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Somerset have to bow to the inevitable

By JOHN WOODCOCK

Spinner in to fill the breach



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at all other

Connor earlier without offering a stroke, but he showed far more determination now as he battled gamely for more than two hours before he lifted a catch to mid-off.

Surrey v Sussex
UARDLORD (second day of three):
 Surrey lead Sussex by 42 runs
SURREY: First Innings
 J. Bicknell b. Stanger b. Dordosick 143
 S. Cliburn c. P. Stanger b. Dordosick 1

WIP SCOREBOARD

DOVENTRY (second day of three):
Warwickshire, with eight second-innings
wickets in hand, are 98 runs ahead of
Leicestershire.

WARWICKSHIRE: First innings 338 for 7
(A P Smith 82, D A Reeve 75).

Second Innings.

Miles not out	24
A Lloyd b Wasim Akram	8
Din Iwaz b Wasim Akram	1
M Moody not out	6
Extras (4, 1, 2, no 6)	12
Total (2 wickets)	51

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KENT: First Innings		
S G Hinks c Capel b Ambrose	5	
M R Bimson c Ripley b Ambrose	10	
N R Taylor c Fordham b Cook	97	
R R Cowdrey c Larkins b Ambrose	0	
C S Cowdrey c Fordham b Ambrose	0	
S A Marsh c Felton b Brown	29	
R M Ellison c Ripley b Robinson	34	
P F Davies c Capel b Bailey	43	
S de Villiers c and b Williams	0	

Total **340**
Scores at 100 overs: 319 for 8
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-104, 3-125, 4-180, 5-266, 6-291, 7-290, 8-318, 9-338.
BOWLING: Hartley 20-3-78-2, Fletcher 17-7-23-1, Cough 13-5-40-1, Cerrick 31-4-89-5, White 12-1-69-0, Pickles 10-3-30-1.
Bonus points: Middlesex 8, Yorkshire 5.
Umpires: B Dulleston and J D Bond.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings		330	for 7
dec (P A Smith 82, D A Reeve 78)			
Second Innings.			
A J Mokes not out		24	
T A Lloyd b Wasim Akram		8	
Asif Din lbw b Wasim Akram		1	
T M Moody not out		6	
Extras (to 4, lb 2, nb 6)		12	
Total (2 wickets)		51	

16.1-4-30-4; Maru 8-6-5-2; Ayling 7-3-12-0; Connor 7-2-29-2.	
Second linings	
B C Broad c Parks b Connor	1.
P Pollard c Woods b Maru	2.
M Newell c Parks b Marshall	3.
"R T Robinson c Marshall b Ayling	4.
P Johnson b Maru	5.
M Saxatry c Smith b Baker	6.
F D Stephenson not out	3.

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Two giants take the centre stage

By MITCHELL PLATT
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GREG Norman and Nick Faldo yesterday raised the curtain on the 119th Open Championship at St Andrews by wasting little time in moving centre stage on the Old Course.

Norman claimed a share of the lead with Michael Allen, of the United States, on 66 and Nick Faldo refused to be banished to the wings as he completed his 67 with a rare eagle at the 18th.

The setting was perfect for these two giants of the modern game, as a light breeze coming from the east off St Andrews Bay providing relief from the sultry conditions rather than protection for the course.

Neither Norman nor Faldo, winners of the Open in 1986 and 1987 respectively, have made a better start to this championship. Norman's previous best first-round score was a 67, in 1984; Faldo has had several 68s.

Norman looked impressive from the moment he holed from 14 feet for a birdie at the 1st. He suppressed his natural inclination to take a course by the scruff of the neck and instead favoured a conservative route to the left side of the firm fairways.

The Australian did not place himself under pressure until, at the 9th, he rolled a putt of 25 feet some six feet past. He made the return and with a putt of 20 feet for a birdie at the 10th began an inward half, in which he made no mistakes. Norman, aged 35, has matured and this was a vintage performance.

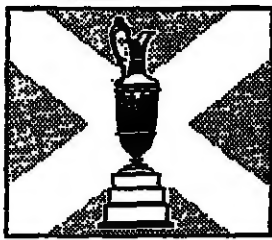
Faldo made his entrance little more than 30 minutes after Normans. He had, 24 hours earlier, celebrated his 33rd birthday although the festivities will have to wait until Sunday evening, when he will hope to be the first golfer to win both the Masters and Open in the same year since Gary Player in 1974.

The inclusion of a two wood with a loft of ten degrees has provided Faldo with an option to his graphite-shafted driver and the two dove-tailed well. What was particularly encouraging was the manner in which Faldo went at the pins. The longest putt he holed for his four birdies was one of 12 feet, although he was not required to withdraw the putter from his bag at the 18th.

There, he provided a moment of pure theatre for that section of the record first-day crowd of 39,339 gathered around the green. Faldo found himself closer to the green than he had wanted although from 45 yards he played a delightful pitch and run with an eight-iron, which found the sanctuary of the hole for a two.

Faldo played alongside Scott Hoch, whom he beat in a play-off for the Masters last year. Hoch had, before teeing-off, claimed that comments

THE OPEN



ST ANDREWS

attributed to him concerning the Englishman were not true. He had stated that Faldo was not the player "I would pick to play with" and that they were not "real friendly." Faldo followed the round with an invitation to tea which the American accepted.

Allen has revealed that something a little stronger than tea threatened some years ago to impair his vision on the fairways. "There was a time when I was drinking myself into oblivion," Allen said. "Once, at the European tour school, I locked myself in a room and the only time I came out over the next three days was to get some more beer. It had to stop."

There was a justifiable reason for Allen to drink a few glasses of Dom Perignon when 12 months ago he won the Bell's Scottish Open, but he has no intention of walking anything except a straight line this week with the silver claret jug now in his sights.

Allen's cup will runneth over, too, if his putter remains as sweet to him as it was throughout his 66. He holed a putt of 150 feet at the 13th, which should be given a place in the Guinness Book of Records, for one of his seven birdies in the first 14 holes. He two putted from 80 feet at the 14th and from 100 feet at the 15th.

Ian Woosnam was less than satisfied with the Ram Zebra putter that has become such a friend during the last two weeks when he has won the Monte Carlo Open and the Bell's Scottish Open. So much so, that he claimed he would return it to the professional shop at Oswestry if it refuses to work from here on.

Even so, Woosnam is well placed following a 68 which proved a popular score since no fewer than seven players finished on that mark. They included Christy O'Connor Jr, Martin Poxon, Sam Torrance and the American, Peter Jacobsen, whose hopes of sharing the lead evaporated when he took six at the 17th as the early evening sun began to cast shadows across St Andrews.

In contrast, Poxon had teed-off in the first group at 7.15am and finished almost before the Bollinger tent had served its first customers. He, too, might have called for a bottle or two, after a round which included a birdie at the 17th when he struck a superb five-iron to within four feet of the hole. Poxon said: "It's better than sex."



Driving force: Severiano Ballesteros, of Spain, one of the favourites for the Open, in powerful form on the Old Course at St Andrews yesterday

Faldo stroke that said it all

By DAVID MILLER

THE Masters champion and the man who so nearly might have been, 15 months ago, were partners on the first day of the Open. They did not say much to each other. Some people seem to think that is a story. Personally, I thought Nick Faldo's golf was much more of a story.

It is said on the circuit that Scott Hoch has a loose lip. He let slip the ill-advised word even more readily than he let slip the 18-inch play-off putt that would have denied Faldo the first of his consecutive Masters titles. On the eve of this championship, Hoch had said he did not much care for playing with Faldo who, he alleged, was uncommunicative. Yesterday, I thought Hoch should have got the message: Faldo's concentration does not leave much room for social intercourse.

Faldo, who won his first major three years ago at Muirfield, played the sort of game that perpetuates success. His round contained only two visible errors, and each time

he responded instantly: the first with a birdie at the same hole, the fifth, then an eagle at the 18th that raised a roar they will have heard in Perth. "My game is very solid" he said in the understatement of the day.

If Faldo talks to anyone during a round, it is to his caddy, Fanny Sunesson. She fusses around him as attentively as a young primary school teacher with a five-year-old; and she offers more advice, on the line of his putts, than the Chancellor receives from No. 10. Pretty often it works, too.

The platform for Faldo's round of five-under, a good enough start for anyone, was made from the 10th to the 13th, with three birdies in four holes; and so nearly three more at the next three holes. Solid indeed.

He had gone one-under at the par-5 fifth. Avoiding the line of seven bunkers on the right of the fairway - which Hoch did not - he then badly topped his second, which scudded along the ground rather in the way that I tend to hit the ball. Yet he recovered

with a neat chip on to the front ridge of the green and a 12ft single putt.

At the 10th, he hit a glorious three iron and wedge to within four feet, and holed. At the short 11th, where the bitter-sweet aroma of seaweed drifts up from the rocks on the St Andrews Bay shoreline, he held a firm par, playing like clockwork as he had through-out his objective.

Another fine drive-and-wedge at the 316-yard 12th, and he birdied from nine feet. The momentum was gathering, in time with the fighter-jets endlessly practising their kind of offensive game down the runways across the water at Leuchars.

The 13th is a dilemma of choice to the left or right of the Coffin bunkers. Faldo got his line correct, and was comfortably on the green in two, some eight feet from the pin. He and his caddy now walked about heads down, bent in two, for what seemed five minutes; a couple of gardeners on the allotment planting lettuce or radishes.

Finally, the ball was addressed. Faldo waggled his toes up and down, like a diver on the edge of the springboard. Then a gentle ping, while gulls screamed overhead and the sun beat down unsparringly on the most under-dressed and over-exposed crowd ever to attend an Open. Four-under and four to play.

The next two holes frustrated Faldo by no more than inches; he might have gone six under to level with Norman, several holes out in front. And so to the 17th. He took the left-hand route to the green, going past the bunkers and leaving plenty of room to aim back towards the flag. From 25 yards he chipped to within four feet, but two-putted to lose a stroke.

With his new two-wood - in fact an alloy - he under-hit to the 18th. "A difficult position" he reflected afterwards. Some 40 yards from the flag, he hit a low pitch-and-run, watched it turn left and right... and nestled against the stick in the hole. That said rather more than Hoch might have wished to hear from him.

FIRST ROUND SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

66 G Norman (Aus) M Allen (US)	67 N Faldo	68 M Poxon C O'Connor Jr I Baker-Finch (Aus) C Parry (Aus) I Woosnam P Stewart (US) P Jacobsen (US)	69 E Romero (Arg) G Turner (NZ) L Trevino (US) D Mijovic (Can)	70 S Pate (US) A Sorenson (Den) D Pooley (US) M Hulbert (US) N Price (Zim) M O'Meara (US) V Singh (Fiji) M Reid (US) T Simpson (US) R Gomez (US) R Rivero (Sp) R Rafferty	71 D Ray L Wadkins (US) N Ozaki (Japan) M Rose S Ballesteros (Sp) M Calavechchia (US) F Coupler (NZ) T Kite (US) B McCallister (US) A North (US)	72 D Cooper P Harrison H Irwin (US) J M Calvez (Sp) B Jones (US) S Jones (US) T Watson (US) A Lyle C Montgomerie P Mitchell P Curry M Warrick (Swe) J Spence D Frost (SA) J Mudd (US) W Westner (SA) M Clayton (Aus) H Woodard (Aus) G Player (SA) R Floyd (US) F Nobilo (NZ)	73 J Woodland (Aus) T Weiskopf (US) H Clark S Ginn (US) S Simpson (US) W Grady (Aus) B Wray (US) I Aoki (Japan) P Hartmann (US) J Queros (Sp) P Baker B Barnes	74 D Jones A Oldcorn C Patton (US) M Walton M McNulty (Zim) T Murray T Armour III (US) C Strange (US) J Devila (Sp) K Knox (US) D Williams B Langer (Wg) S Elkington (Aus) M Martin (Sp)	75 D A Russell J Berendt (Arg) J Hedblom (Swe) R Gonzalez (Arg)	76 B Charles (NZ) M Moulard K Watts C Beck (US)	77 P Lyons G Evans R Wair	78 P Archbold (Aus) Y Higgin (Japan) J Higgins J Gargas (Sp) R Boxall R Muntz (Neth)	82 G Farr * denotes amateur
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• The first 70 and ties will play on the last two days

Today's weather: Continuing dry, and a little cooler than yesterday. Maximum temperature 25°C (77°F). Wind, light, west to north-west, overnight mist dispersing by morning.

THE EARLY LEADERS

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	TOTAL
Yards	370	411	371	463	564	418	372	178	356	342	172	316	428	567	413	382	461	354	6,933
Par	4	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	72
M Allen	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	66
G Norman	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	66
N Faldo	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	5	4	4	5	2	67
I Baker-Finch	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	5	3	3	68
C O'Connor Jr	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	5	4	4	5	4	68
M Poxon	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	68
I Woosnam	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	3	3	4	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	68
C Parry	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	5	3	5	6	4	68
P Stewart	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4	6	4	68
P Jacobsen	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	3	68
S Torrance	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	68

TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

GB and Ireland unless stated
7.15: J Spence, J Gargas (Sp), C Moody, 7.25: J Rutledge (Can), G Farr, K Waters, 7.35: P Hedblom (Swe), R Gonzalez (Arg), D Mijovic (Can), 7.45: J Nicklaus (US), D Frost (SA), J M Olszalski (Sp), 7.55: J Mudd (US), W Westner (SA), J Rivero (Sp).
8.05: P Stewart (US), M Clayton (Aus), B Langer (Wg), 8.20: R Boxall, L Mize (US), S Elkington (Aus), 8.30: P Jacobsen (US), C Beck (US), M Martin (Sp), 8.40: C Parry (US), M Harwood (Aus), R Rafferty, 8.50: A Palmer (US), G Player (SA), R Muntz (Neth).
9.00: R Floyd (US), F Nobilo (NZ), D Smyth, 9.10: K Grenshaw, 9.25: J Simpson (US), S Torrance, J Hawkes (SA), 9.35: J Huston (US), R Chapman, P Senior (Aus), 9.45: P Way, D Hammond (US), M Ozaki (Japan), 9.55: K Green (Aus), Y Kuramoto (Japan), S Bennett, 10.00: W Player (SA), P Broadhurst, P Hall.
10.05: C Stadler (US), D Love (US), R Davis (Aus), 10.15: M McCumber (US), M James, D Graham (Aus), 10.30: V Fernandez (Arg), S Glasson (US), P Azinger (US), 10.45: O Moore (Aus), Y Kuramoto (Japan), S Bennett, 10.50: W Player (SA), P Broadhurst, P Hall.
11.00: J Morgan, G Powers (US), P Levenson (SA), D Durkin, 11.20: P Mayo, R Drummond, 11.35: D Canipe (US), B Estes (US), A Saavedra (Arg), 11.45: J Woodland (Aus), M Poxon, D A Russell, 11.55: D Ray, D Cooper, P Harrison.
12.05: P Lyons, D Jones, A Oldcorn, 12.15: S Pate (US), L Wadkins (US), A Sorenson (US), 12.25: H Irwin (US), J M Calvez (Sp), N Ozaki (Japan), 12.40: D Pooley (US), M Rose, B Jones (Aus), 12.50: M Hulbert (US), S Jones (US), E Romero (Arg).
13.00: S Ballesteros (Sp), T Watson (US), N Price (Zim), 13.10: M Calavechchia (US), F Coupler (NZ), C O'Connor Jr, 13.20: R Charles (NZ), C Patton (US), T Weiskopf (US), 13.30: M O'Meara (US), H Clark, I Baker-Finch (Aus), 13.45: A Lyle, T Kite (US), V Singh (Fiji), 13.55: S McCallister (US), P Walton, G Turner (NZ).
14.05: M Reid (US), S Ginn (US), G Brand Jr, 14.15: C Montgomerie, L Trevino (US), T Simpson (US), 14.25: A North (US), M McNulty (Zim), E Darcy, 14.35: S Simpson (US), W Grady (Aus), M Moulard, 14.50: R Gomez (US), M Reid (US), G Turner (NZ), R Tway (US), G Norman (Aus).
15.00: A Murray, T Armour (US), I Aoki (Japan), 15.10: C Strange (US), C Parry (Aus), J Woosnam, 15.20: N Faldo, S Hoch (US), J Bland (SA), 15.30: P Mitchell, J Devila (Sp), R Hartmann (US), 15.40: J Queros (Sp), P Curry, P Archbold (Aus), 15.50: P Baker, Y Hagawa (Japan), B Barnes.
16.00: J Berendt (Arg), B Norton (US), R Weir, 16.10: A Hare, K Knox (US), M Allen (US), 16.20: M Krantz (Swe), L Higgins, D Williams.
* denotes amateur

Stadler unable to master St Andrews

CRAIG Stadler, the former Masters champion, fell to a disastrous nine over par after six hit holes of the 119th Open at St Andrews yesterday. He struck a double bogey six at the first, bogeyed the next and the fourth and then dropped two more shots at the long fifth.

Worse was to come. He slumped to a three-over-par seven at the 416-yard sixth. Stadler, who won at Augusta in 1982, spent the three weeks before the tournament on safari in Zambia.

"I don't expect to play well," he said, reflective that he shot 61 to win the Scandinavian Enterprise Open in Sweden only five weeks ago.

Blazing sunshine brought a record attendance of 39,309 to the first day of the Championship yesterday. At noon, a total of 37,437 spectators were on the course, compared to 28,760 at Royal Troon last year.

On the corresponding day at St Andrews six years ago, the figure for the entire day was 34,897.

Hick is in form with a century

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

NEIL Fairbrother, who has wasted his England chances, and Graeme Hick, who is likely to go straight into the side next year when his qualifying period ends, played the outstanding innings in yesterday's county cricket championship matches.

The Warwickshire bowlers were left regretting that Fairbrother had not been included in the Tynes Trophy party, as he gave them an unmerciful lesson at County Lane, Leamington, in danger of the follow-on at 116 for six, he was able to declare at 332 for eight, thanks to Fairbrother's unbeaten 203, during which he passed his 1,000 for the season in only his seventh innings. Fairbrother was in for less than five hours and hit two sixes and 35 fours.

Hick's unbeaten 171 at Worcester was his fifth championship century in the last six seasons against Somerset. His innings included one six and 29 fours.

The day's other century-makers were Mark Waugh, of Essex, Martin Spaight, of Sussex, and Keith Brown, of the championship leaders, Middlesex.

Waugh's 126 put Essex on the road to almost certain victory against Derbyshire, whose wicketkeeper, Krikken, took five catches. Derbyshire, 98 behind on first innings, were routed by Neil Foster, second time around, but Essex were not quite able to finish the match in two days.

Spaight pulled Sussex round from 111 for six - the Wells brothers were both out first ball - against Surrey. There were six sixes in his hundred made from only 103 deliveries.

Brown was unbeaten with 109, his first century since the opening match of the season when the Middlesex first-innings closed at 340 at Uxbridge, against Yorkshire, whose left-arm spinner Phil Carrick, 38 earlier this week, took five for 99 to limit his side's deficit to 97.

Neil Taylor, of Kent, certainly deserved a hundred at Northampton, where the Cowdrey brothers failed to score, both victims of Curry Ambrose in a burst of four wickets in 24 balls. Thanks to Taylor's 97 and valuable contributions from the lower order, Kent rallied to 283 but still had to follow on 162 behind.

Nottinghamshire also followed on against Hampshire at Portsmouth after being dismissed for 110, but managed to take the match into the third day by reaching 177 for six at their second attempt. They are still 14 behind.

More cricket, page 40

Girls given support by schools FA

By PETER BALL

THE English Schools' Football Association (ESFA), hitherto a bastion of male supremacy, has altered its constitution to include girls. The ESFA is also pressing the Football Association to alter its rules to allow boys and girls to play together up to 11 years of age.

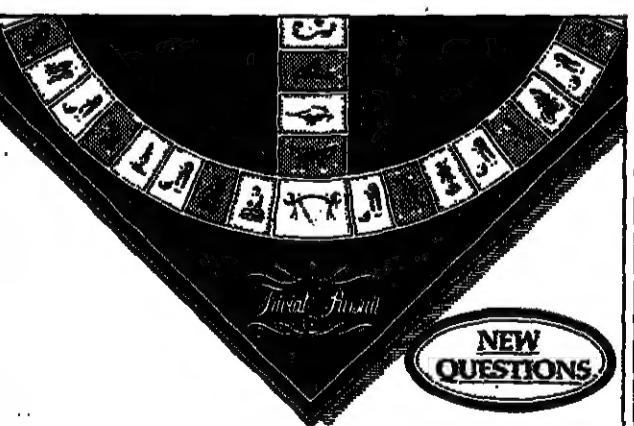
The decision was passed by an overwhelming majority at last week's annual meeting in Newcastle, after considerable pressure from some of the member associations.

The ESFA, which was founded in 1904, represents all levels of schools, although the public schools also have their own association. It is, however, still dependent on the final approval of the Charity Commissioners, but the loss of charitable status no longer appears a sizeable danger.

The next step, the change in FA rules, will have to wait until the association's annual meeting next summer. The FA has been carrying out its own investigation into the proposal, and after two discussions on the subject in the last six months, ESFA officials were confident yesterday it would be approved.

In rural areas, in particular, the change is desperately needed, with junior schools finding they are unable to field teams unless they play mixed sides. At the moment, these can only play in friendly matches.

The prospect was widely welcomed yesterday. "Girls being taught to play alongside boys in school from an early age will benefit the women's game so much for obvious reasons," Linda Whitehead, the secretary of the women's FA, said.



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